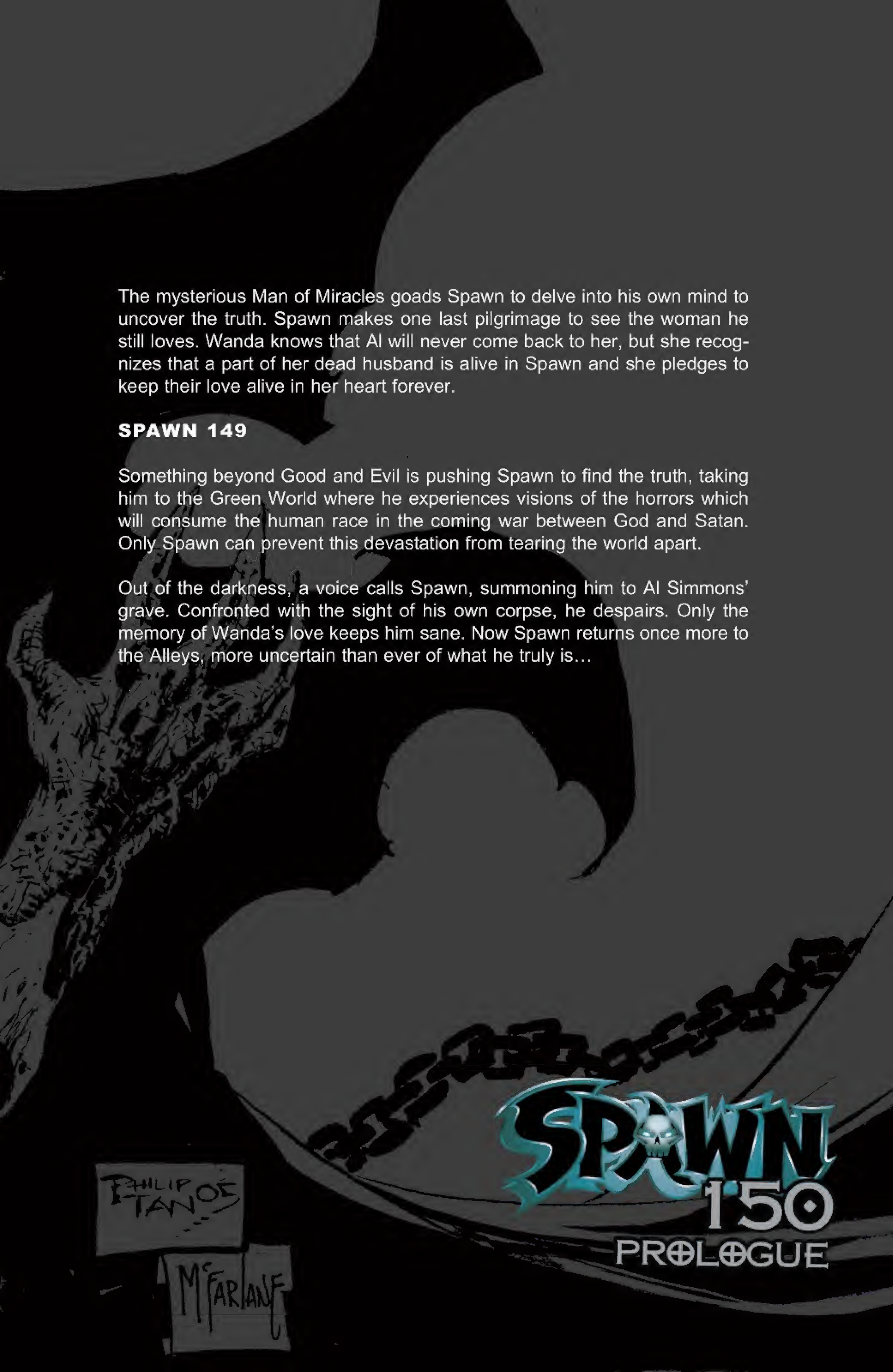


SPAWN

PSYLOS

150



The mysterious Man of Miracles goads Spawn to delve into his own mind to uncover the truth. Spawn makes one last pilgrimage to see the woman he still loves. Wanda knows that Al will never come back to her, but she recognizes that a part of her dead husband is alive in Spawn and she pledges to keep their love alive in her heart forever.

SPAWN 149

Something beyond Good and Evil is pushing Spawn to find the truth, taking him to the Green World where he experiences visions of the horrors which will consume the human race in the coming war between God and Satan. Only Spawn can prevent this devastation from tearing the world apart.

Out of the darkness, a voice calls Spawn, summoning him to Al Simmons' grave. Confronted with the sight of his own corpse, he despairs. Only the memory of Wanda's love keeps him sane. Now Spawn returns once more to the Alleys, more uncertain than ever of what he truly is...

SPAWN
150
PRØLØGUE



WITH
THIS
RING
I...

WANDA...
HOW COULD
I HAVE...
WANDA!

I
REMEMBER
NOW.

HOW COULD
I EVER HAVE
FORGOTTEN?




IT'S ALL COMING
BACK, ALL AT
ONCE. SO MANY
MEMORIES I
THINK I MIGHT
DROWN.

MY
LIFE...
OUR
LIFE...

MY DEATH...

MY REBIRTH
AS THIS
MONSTER...



THE REASON I
MADE THIS CURSED
BARGAIN.

THE REASON
I HAD TO
COME BACK.

JUST TO SEE
HER ONE MORE
TIME.

AND TO MAKE
THIS WORLD A
BETTER, SAFER
PLACE...FOR
HER...AND FOR
THOSE SHE
LOVES.



WANDA.

HOW COULD
I HAVE
FORGOTTEN?

I'LL HAVE MY
REVENGE FOR THIS
CRUELTY, FOR THIS
VICIOUS GAME
PLAYED UPON ME.

BUT FIRST, I
HAVE TO GO
BACK.

BACK TO
WHERE IT
ALL
BEGAN.

Interlude

Al Simmons never believed in God or the Devil. He had his own conception of Good and Evil, a moral code that allowed him to kill at the behest of his country's covert forces.

That all changed when his own commanding officer betrayed him. Jason Wynn had ambitions far beyond serving his country and when those ambitions required the death of his finest field officer, he gave the order for Al's execution without hesitation. As the bullet ripped through Al Simmons' brain, his last thought was of his beloved wife, Wanda. And at the moment of his death he heard a voice asking what he would do to see her face once more. The answer he gave condemned him: "Anything..."

Al's soul entered the abyss and he was reborn as a Hellspawn – a creature of necroplasm, symbiotically linked to a living costume. He returned to live among the homeless losers of society in a desolate area of New York known as The Alleys. His challenge was to survive or die a second time, with no hope of return. His purpose, to learn to control the immeasurable power his new body contained. If he survived he would join the other Hellspawn recruited by Hell over the millennia, to lead the demon hordes in the coming battle against the forces of Heaven.

The End Times are coming and both Heaven and Hell have realized that this Spawn is different, greater than any that has come before. But Spawn rejected the authority of both Heaven and Hell. He slew his demon Lord Malebolgia and when he was offered the vacant throne of Hell he rejected that too. Spawn has no desire for power. His only need, his only obsession, is the love of his wife, Wanda.

But when Al Simmons returned in the twisted body of Spawn, he found that five years had passed since his death, and Wanda was remarried to Al's best friend, Terry Fitzgerald. They had a daughter, Cyan, and Al knew that he could never take back his place at Wanda's side.

Spawn spent years in endless conflict as the forces of Heaven and Hell contended for his loyalties, each knowing that he holds the key to victory in the coming conflict. Lord Mammon, ambitious to take control of Hell, has set out to discover the hidden truth. He stripped away Spawn's memories of his life with Wanda, hoping to uncover the truth that lay beneath those memories.

Now other forces have intervened.

THE LAUGHTER
OF CHILDREN...

...THE WHISPER OF
A BREEZE THROUGH
ALFALFA GRASS...

...THE LAPPING
OF GENTLE
WAVES ON A
SUN-KISSED
BEACH...

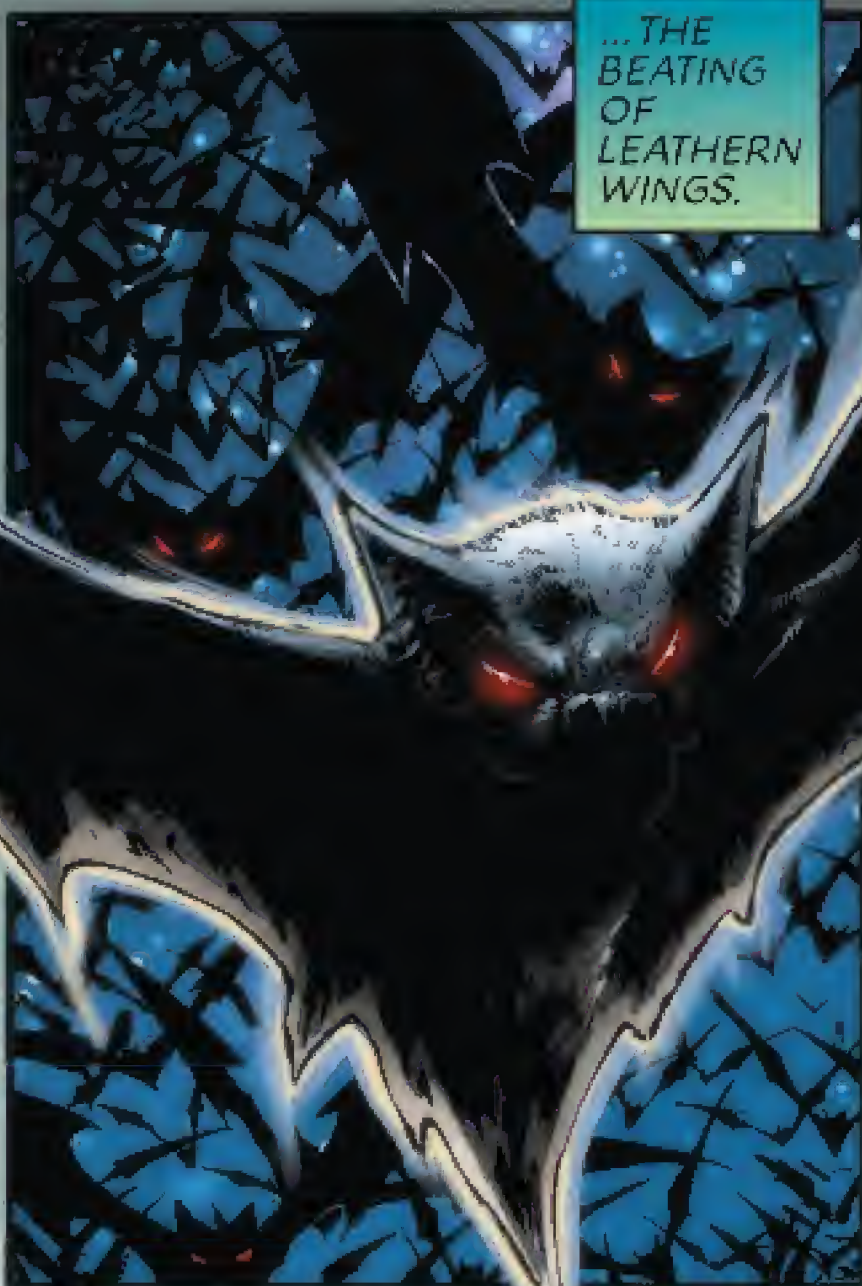
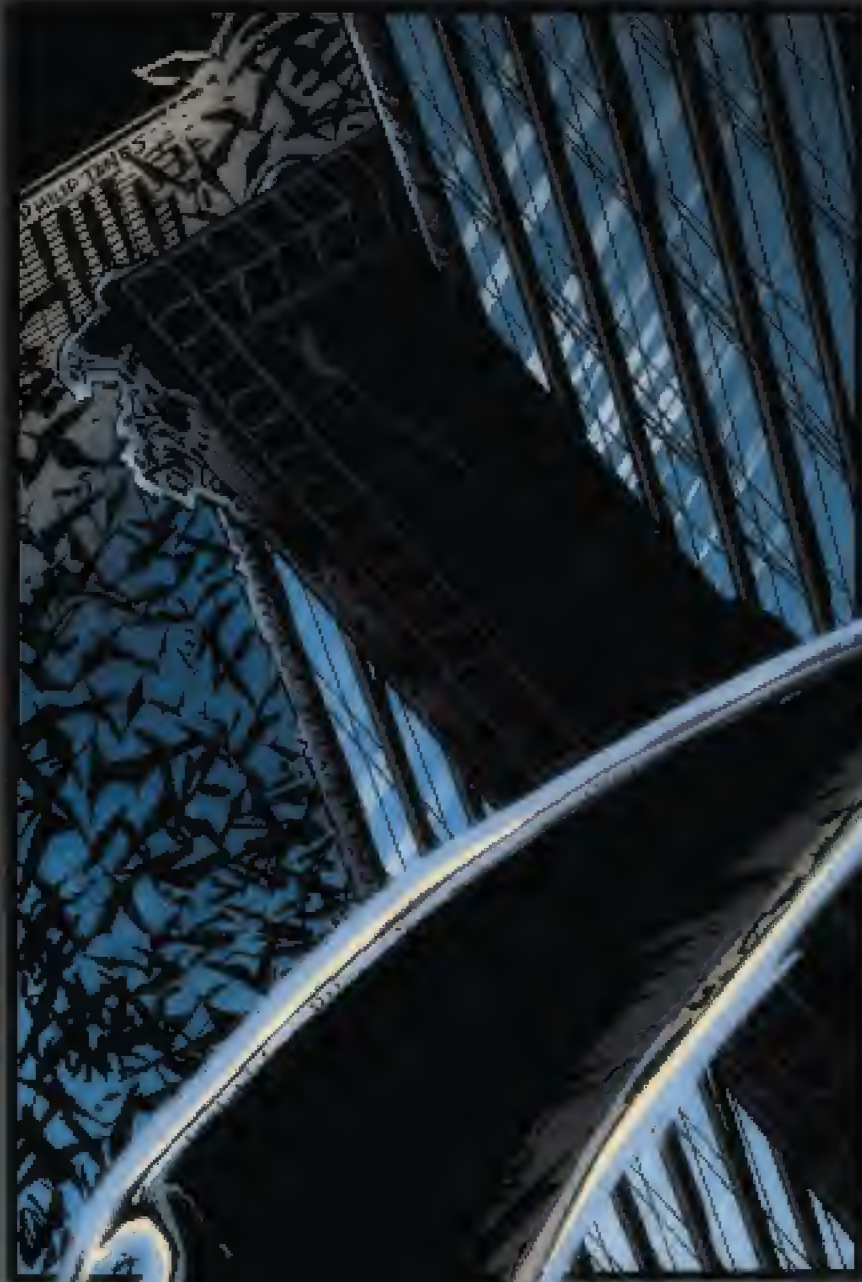
...THE
SOFT
VELVET
OF A
LOVER'S
SIGH...

HE COULD DESCRIBE
THESE SOUNDS AS
ABSTRACTIONS...AS
IDEAS... BUT THE
SOUNDS THEMSELVES
ARE GONE, ERASED
FROM HIS MEMORY...

...AS
INSUBSTANTIAL
AS SMOKE
AND
SHADOWS...



HIS MIND IS
FILLED INSTEAD
WITH THE
CHITTERING OF
NIGHT
CREATURES...



...THE
BEATING
OF
LEATHERN
WINGS.



THEY ARE
DRAWN TO
HIM LIKE
VERMIN TO
A ROTTING
CARCASS...



...DRAWN TO HIS
DARKNESS...

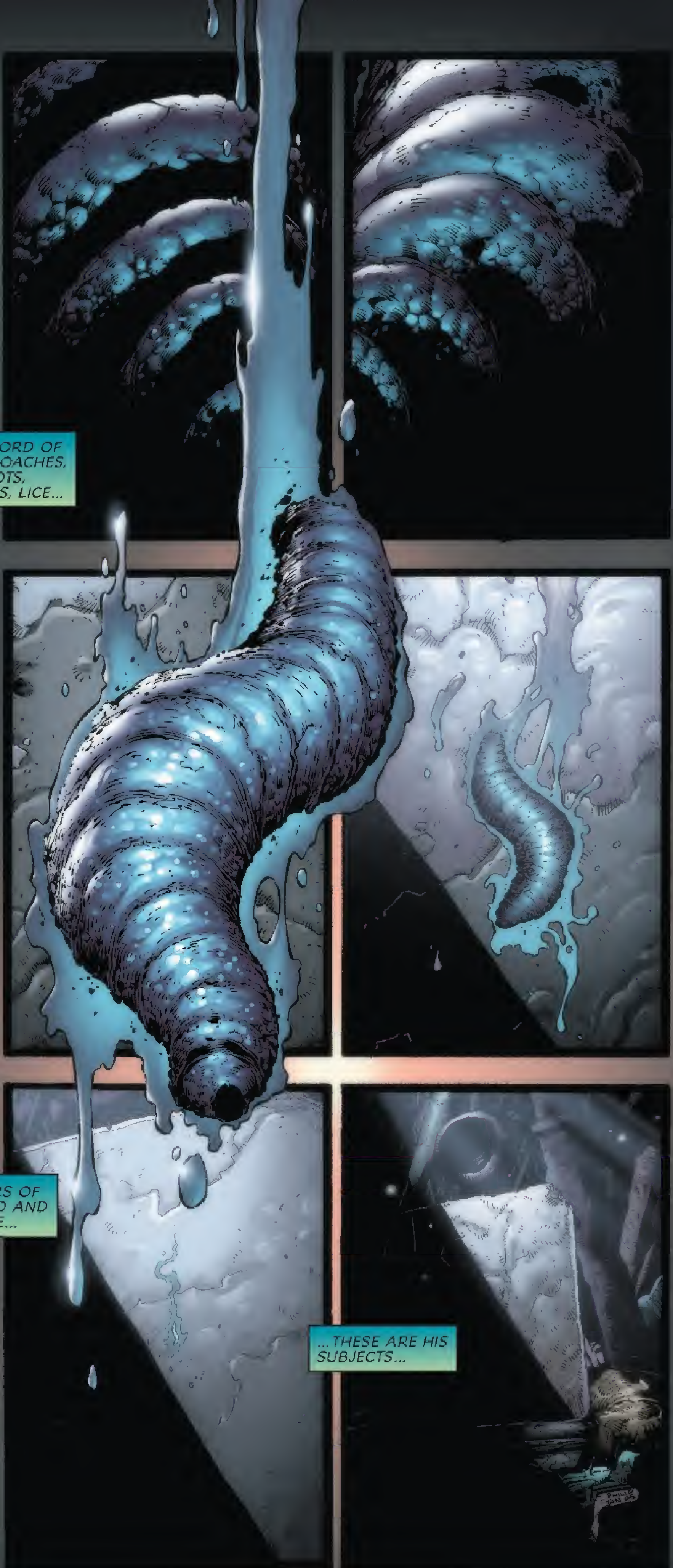
HE HAS NO
FELLOWSHIP WITH
BEAUTY, GRACE
OR MAJESTY.

HE IS LORD OF
COCKROACHES,
MAGGOTS,
BEETLES, LICE...

...CREATURES
OF FILTH AND
DECAY...

...HAUNTERS OF
GRAVEYARD AND
SEPULCHRE...

...THESE ARE HIS
SUBJECTS...



"...THIS
IS HIS
REALM..."

"I SLEPT...
I WAS
DREAMING..."

"...THE WORLD WAS
GREEN AND FILLED
WITH LIGHT... AND
EVERYWHERE, THE
SOUND OF BEATING
WINGS..."

"...FLIGHTS
OF
ANGELS..."

"NO!"

"GODDAMMIT!"

"I'M
BACK!"



"NO MATTER
HOW FAR I TRAVEL,
NO MATTER WHAT
TWISTED PATHS I
FOLLOW, I ALWAYS
END UP HERE...IN
THESE STINKING
ALLEYS!"

"I WAS
OFFERED THE
THRONE OF
HELL AND I
TURNED IT
DOWN FOR
THIS..."



NOW
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
THERE?

WERE
YOU WAITING
FOR ME?



COME
ON
THEN.

CHIT

OUT OF THE SHADOWS THEY COME, HIS FAITHFUL SUBJECTS, THE BUZZING, WRITHING, SQUIRMING HORDE...

HE HAS DOMINION OVER EVERY CREEPING THING THAT CREEPETH UPON THE EARTH...

CHIT

CHRT

CHRT

CHITTER

SKRITCH

CHITTER

SKRRRT

YES, THAT'S IT, COME TO ME, ALL OF YOU...

...NEST IN ME...

CHRT
CHRT

CHITTER
SKRT

CHRT

SRRT

CHITTER

SKRITCH

CHTT
SKRT
SRRT

SKRRRTT

...MAKE THIS EMPTY SHELL YOUR HOME...



WELCOME
TO THE BUG
HOUSE!!

CHIT

SKRIT

CHITTER

CHRRRT

SRRT

SKRITCH

CHTT

CHITTER

SKRIT

SKRRRT

CHITTER

CHRRRT

CHRRRT

SRRT

SRRT

CHTT

CHTT

CHTT

CHTT

SKRRRT

SKRITCH

CHRRRT

CHRRRT

CHRRRT

SKRRRTT

CHIT

MY
KINGDOM.

MY
THRONE.

A CHEAP
STAGE-PROP
IN A FILTHY
ALLEY.

CHITTER

SKRITCH

CHRRRT
CHRRRT

CHIT
CHIT

THE CREATURES
IN SPAWN'S HEAD
ARE RESTLESS...
THEY SCRAPE
AND SCRATCH...

SPIDERS ARE
WEAVING
WEBS IN HIS
BRAIN...

SUCKING MOUTHS...
TWITCHING MANDIBLES...
TINY INSECT VOICES
CLAMORING...

CHIT
CHIT

CHIT

SKRITCH
SKRITCH
SKRIT

CHIT
CHIT

I CAN'T
HEAR.

YOU'RE
ALL
TALKING
AT
ONCE...

...I CAN'T...

...JUST...FOR
CHRISSAKE...

...SHUT
UP!

SKRITCH

CHIT
CHIT

CHIT
CHIT

SRRT

CHITTER

SKRRT

CHIT
CHIT
CHIT

CHIT

CHITTER

CHIT

CHIT

CHIT

SHUT
UP!

S
KRRRT

SKRIT

CHIT

CHITTER

CHIT

CHIT

CHIT

SKRIT

CHRRRT

SHUT
UP!

SKRITCH

SKRIT

CHIT
T
E
R

SRRT

SKRIT

CHRRRT

SRRT

SKRITCH

SKRRRTT
SKRITCH

SHUT
UP!!

SKRITCH

CHIT



SO
WHAT
NOW?

WHAT
THE HELL
DO I DO
NOW?

THE
DEAD
ZONE?

CHIT SKRIT
CHITTER

BUT I
HAVE NO
POWER
THERE.

THAT
PLACE
BELONGS TO
HEAVEN.

SKRITTC CHIT
CHIT SKRIT TT CCH



CHITTER CHRRRT

CHHTT
CHIT

YOU'RE
RIGHT. THESE
ARE MY
ALLEYS!

I GO
WHERE I
WANT.

THE DEAD ZONE...



AN INVISIBLE FRONTIER IS
CROSSED...



...AND
SPAWN
FEELS HIS
ENERGY
INSTANTLY
DISSIPATE.



WHAT
IS
THIS?!

HAVE YOU
STILL NOT
LEARNED?

YOU ARE NOT
WANTED HERE,
HELLSPAWN.

YOU ARE
WITHIN HEAVEN'S
JURISDICTION.

TURN
AROUND
AND LEAVE
THIS
PLACE!

NO.

WHAT
GIVES YOU
THE RIGHT TO
TELL ME WHERE
I GO?

I AM THE
DISCIPLE.

FIRST AND
GREATEST OF
HEAVEN'S
WARRIORS.





THE
GREATEST?

HEAVEN SENDS
ITS GREATEST WARRIOR
TO STOP ME FROM
COMING HERE?

NOW WHY
WOULD THAT
BE?



YOUR ODOR
OFFENDS US,
HELLSPAWN!

YOU
CARRY THE
STENCH OF DECAY
AND CORRUPTION
AND UNREPENTED
SIN!



NOW TAKE
YOUR WORTHLESS
CORPSE AWAY FROM
HERE OR I WILL TEAR
YOU APART, BODY
AND SOUL!



I'VE GOT
A BELLY FULL
OF COCKROACHES,
THERE ARE MAGGOTS
CRAWLING AROUND
UNDER MY SKIN.

I'VE BEEN
SHOT, BEATEN,
TORN LIMB BY
LIMB! I'VE HAD
THE FLESH
BURNED FROM
MY BONES!

DO YOU
THINK FOR ONE
MINUTE I'M GOING
TO BE
INTIMIDATED BY
YOU?!

YOU HAVE
NO POWER
HERE.

YOU ARE
NOTHING!

WITHOUT ANOTHER
THOUGHT, HE ATTACKS...



...AND THE
DISCIPLE PLUCKS
HIM FROM THE
AIR WITH AS
LITTLE EFFORT
AS HE WOULD
SWAT A FLY...

...AND THE
HELLSPAWN
NOW FEELS
PAIN...

HIS LAST CONSCIOUS
THOUGHT, BEFORE HIS FACE
IS RIPPED APART, IS THAT HE
SHOULD NEVER LISTEN TO
THE VOICES IN HIS HEAD...



TO THINK
WE FEARED
YOU!

THIS IS
WHERE YOU
BELONG...

...WITH THE
REST OF THE
GARBAGE...



IT LOOKS LIKE THEY MISSED THE BEST PART OF YOU...



...YOUR POOR NEGLECTED HEART.



ALL IT NEEDS IS A LITTLE NURTURING.





snif.



IT'S ALL RIGHT, CHRISTOPHER.

YOU'RE ALL RIGHT NOW.



SNIF WHO ARE YOU?

HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?



I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU.

I'M CALLED THE MAN OF MIRACLES.

M-MIRACLES?

CAN YOU DO MAGIC AND STUFF?



SOME.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO DO FOR YOU?

I... I THINK I'M LOST.

I NEED TO GO HOME.



ALL RIGHT, CHRISTOPHER...



...I'LL TAKE YOU HOME.



THE APARTMENT
OF SAM BURKE.

NOTHING
BEATS
WUSTHOF
CUTLERY.

AS KEEN AS
A SURGEON'S
SCALPEL.

CAREFUL
DOES IT
NOW.

HAVE TO
SCOOP OUT ALL
THE FLESH WITHOUT
BREAKING THAT
DELICATE SKIN.

NOW
HOW ARE
THOSE ONIONS
COMING
ALONG?

AHHH...
THE AROMA OF
SIMMERING
EGGPLANT...

HEY, IS
DINNER READY
OR WHAT? I'M
LOSING WEIGHT
HERE!

PATIENCE,
PATIENCE.
YOU CAN'T
RUSH HAUTE
CUISINE.

YOU KNOW
I COULD'A THROWN
TOGETHER A COUPL'A
HAMBURGERS BY
NOW.



BUT THINK OF
YOUR HEART, SAMUEL,
THINK OF YOUR POOR
ABUSED ARTERIES...

GOD! I HATE IT
WHEN YOU CALL ME
SAMUEL. YOU SOUND
LIKE MY MOTHER.

--WHAT
THE HELL IS
THAT?!

THIS...
IS THE
FAINTING
IMAM.





NO!

YOU ARE NOT GOING TO REDUCE THIS CULINARY EXPERIENCE TO THE LEVEL OF A TV DINNER.

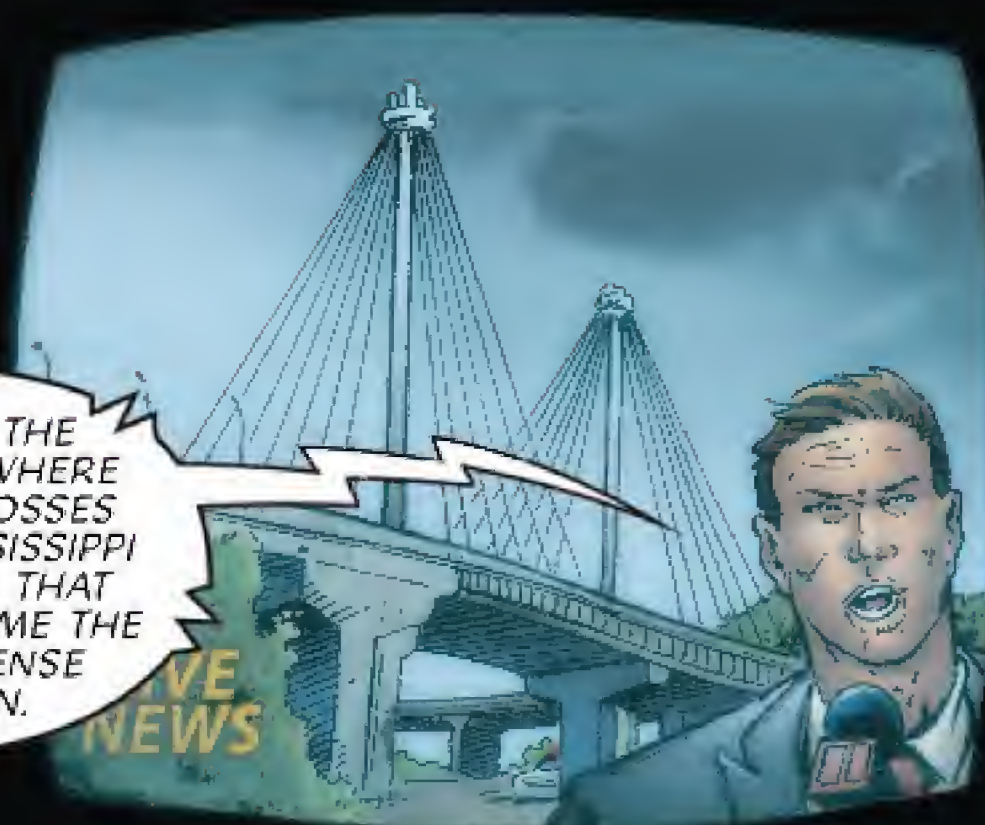
GIMMEE THAT!

FER CHRIS'SAKE SHUT UP AND LISTEN!

SOME-THING SERIOUS IS GOING ON.

--COMING TO YOU LIVE FROM THIS ASTONISHING SCENE AT ALTON, ILLINOIS.

BEHIND ME IS THE CLARK BRIDGE WHERE HIGHWAY 67 CROSSES THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI RIVER--A RIVER THAT TODAY HAS BECOME THE FOCUS OF INTENSE SPECULATION.




SOME EARLIER THEORIES WERE THAT SOME FORM OF ALGAE MAY HAVE CAUSED THE DISCOLORATION OF THE WATER. THOSE HAVE NOW BEEN DISMISSED.



CHEMICAL TESTS HAVE CONFIRMED WHAT THE SMELL AND THE SWARMS OF FLIES HAVE ALREADY SUGGESTED...



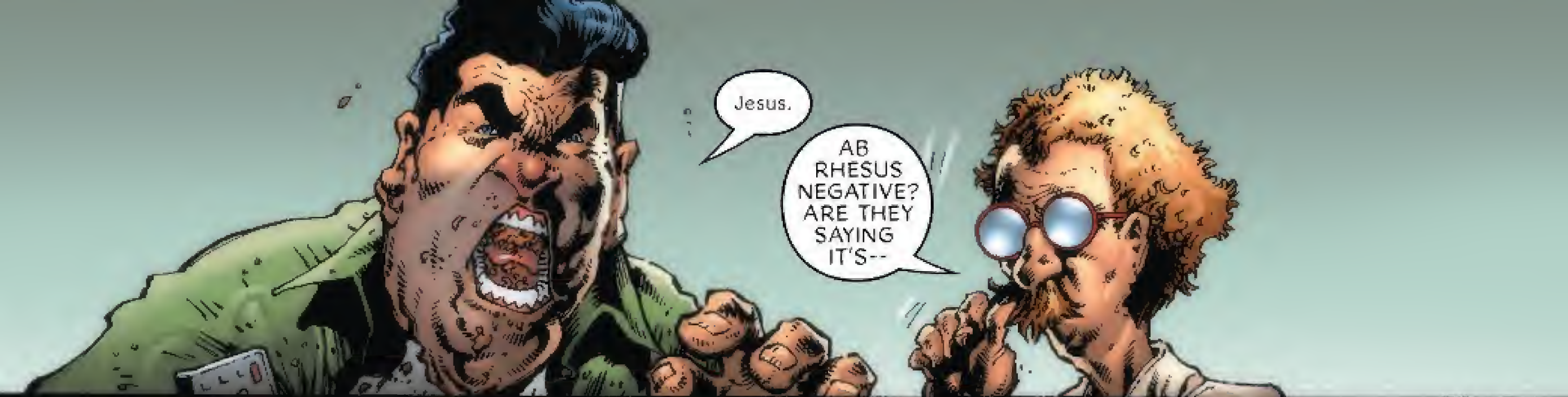


THAT THE
WATERS OF
THE MISSISSIPPI
HAVE SOMEHOW
TURNED TO
BLOOD.

THAT'S RIGHT!
FROM LAKE ITASCA
TO THE GULF OF MEXICO,
OVER 2,300 MILES OF
RIVER... BILLIONS
OF CUBIC LITRES OF
BLOOD!

IT'S AS IF
THE PLANET
HAS OPENED UP
A TERRIBLE
WOUND. MOTHER
EARTH IS
BLEEDING...

...AND
ACCORDING
TO OUR EXPERTS,
HER BLOOD TYPE
IS AB RHESUS
NEGATIVE...



Jesus.

AB
RHESUS
NEGATIVE?
ARE THEY
SAYING
IT'S--



--HUMAN
BLOOD.

WE HAVE NO
EXPLANATION FOR THIS
REMARKABLE PHENOMENON.
THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF THE
WORLD COULDN'T PRODUCE ANY-
THING NEAR THIS QUANTITY
OF BLOOD.



RHESUS AB
NEGATIVE.
THAT'S A RARE
BLOOD TYPE
ISN'T IT?

IT WAS
BEFORE
TODAY.




REPRESENTATIVES
OF MANY
RELIGIOUS GROUPS HAVE
BEEN GATHERING ALL
DAY...



"AND THE
THIRD ANGEL POURED
OUT HIS VIAL UPON THE
RIVERS AND FOUNTAINS
OF WATERS; AND THEY
BECAME BLOOD."

I'M
FEELING
THE RAPTURE
COMING
ON!





YOU KEEP
LORD MAMMON
WAITING AND HE'LL
BE USING YOUR
GUTS TO FLOSS
HIS TEETH.

MAMMON'S
GUESTS ARE
SUMMONED...

...AND
THEY ARE
NOT RENOWNED
FOR THEIR
PATIENCE...

C'MON!
MOVE YOUR
RANCID
BUTTS!

DO YOU
HEAR
ME?

IS THIS
ALL OF
HIM?

YES UPHIR,
THAT'S THE
LOT.

UH...HE'S KIND'A
MESSED UP. YOU
REALLY THINK YOU
CAN PUT HIM BACK
TOGETHER?



LORD
MAMMON
HAS DECREED
IT. SO MUST
IT BE!

UPHIR,
YOU ARE THE
MAN!

UPHIR, HE
CONNECTED
DEM DRY
BONES...

...UPHIR, HE
CONNECTED
DEM DRY
BONES...

...DEM
BONES,
DEM BONES
GONNA-
URKK!

YOU
SUPPURATING
TOAD! DISTURB MY
CONCENTRATION ONE
MORE TIME AND I'LL
EMPTY MY BOWELS
DOWN YOUR THROAT,
THEN SEW UP EVERY
ORIFICE SO YOU'LL
TASTE IT FOR AN
ETERNITY...

IS THAT
CLEAR?!!

DEM
BONES,
DEM BONES
GONNA WALK
AROUN'...

IT IS
FINISHED!

INFORM
MAMMON I HAVE
DONE AS HE
REQUIRES.





DO YOU
RECOGNIZE THIS
PLACE,
CHRISTOPHER?

YES, SIR. THIS IS
SANCTITY. IT'S MY HOMETOWN.
I LIVE RIGHT OVER THERE PAST
THE FUN FAIR.

DO YOU
REMEMBER WHAT
YOUR MOTHER
TOLD YOU?

WHAT
TIME DID
SHE TELL
YOU TO BE
HOME?

MY
MOM?
UH...

SHE SAID...
SIX. BE HOME
BY SIX
O'CLOCK.



NOW
LISTEN TO
ME, CHRIS. YOU
HAVE TO BE
HOME ON
TIME.

WHY? WHAT'S
SO IMPORTANT?

JUST BELIEVE
ME, YOUR MOTHER
NEEDS YOU HOME ON
TIME. WHATEVER
HAPPENS, DON'T BE
LATE OR SOMETHING
TERRIBLE WILL
HAPPEN.

OKAY.



I CAN'T
COME ANY
FURTHER. YOU
HAVE TO DO
THIS ON YOUR
OWN.

AM I
GOING TO
SEE YOU
AGAIN?

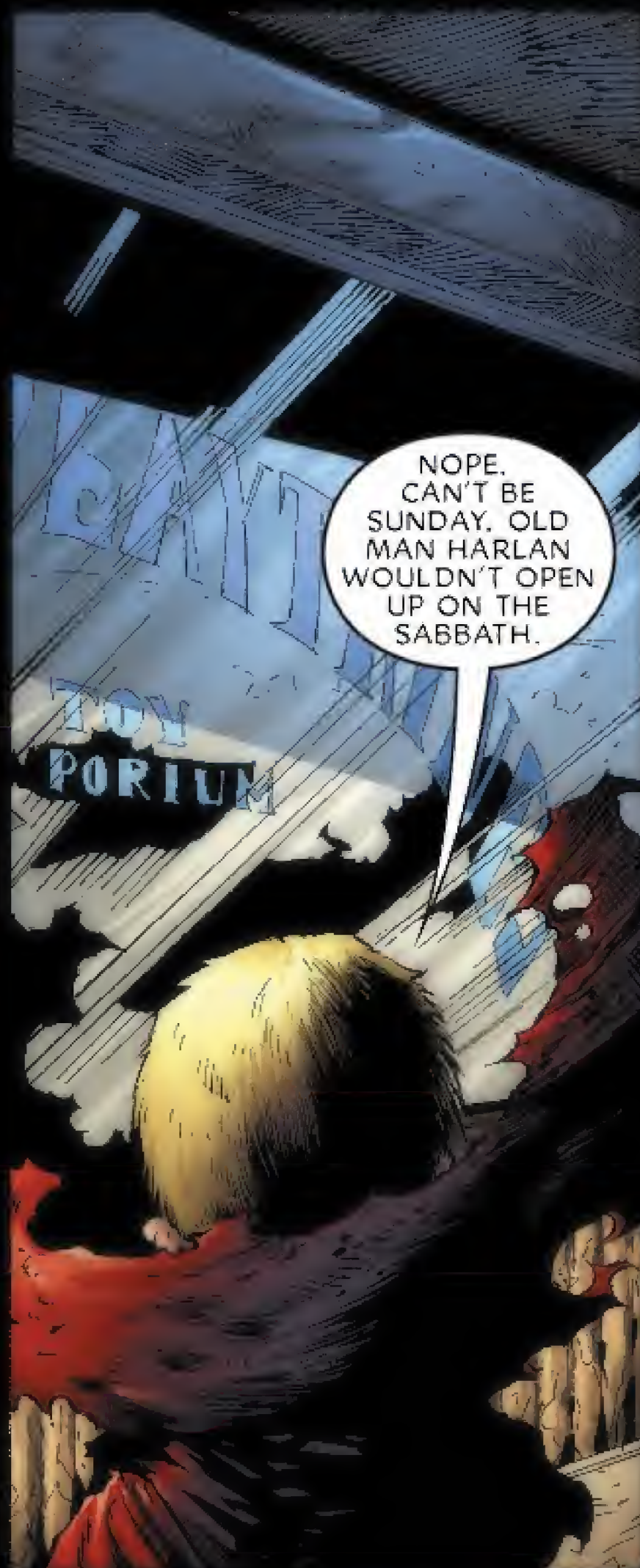
I
HOPE
SO.

"I'M SORRY
CHRISTOPHER.
IF I COULD
SPARE YOU
THIS, I
WOULD. IT
ISN'T JUST
YOUR
MOTHER
THAT'S
DEPENDING
ON YOU..."

"...THE
FATE OF
HUMANITY
IS NOW IN
YOUR
HANDS."



JEEZ!
WHERE IS
EVERYBODY?
MUST BE
SUNDAY, I
GUESS.



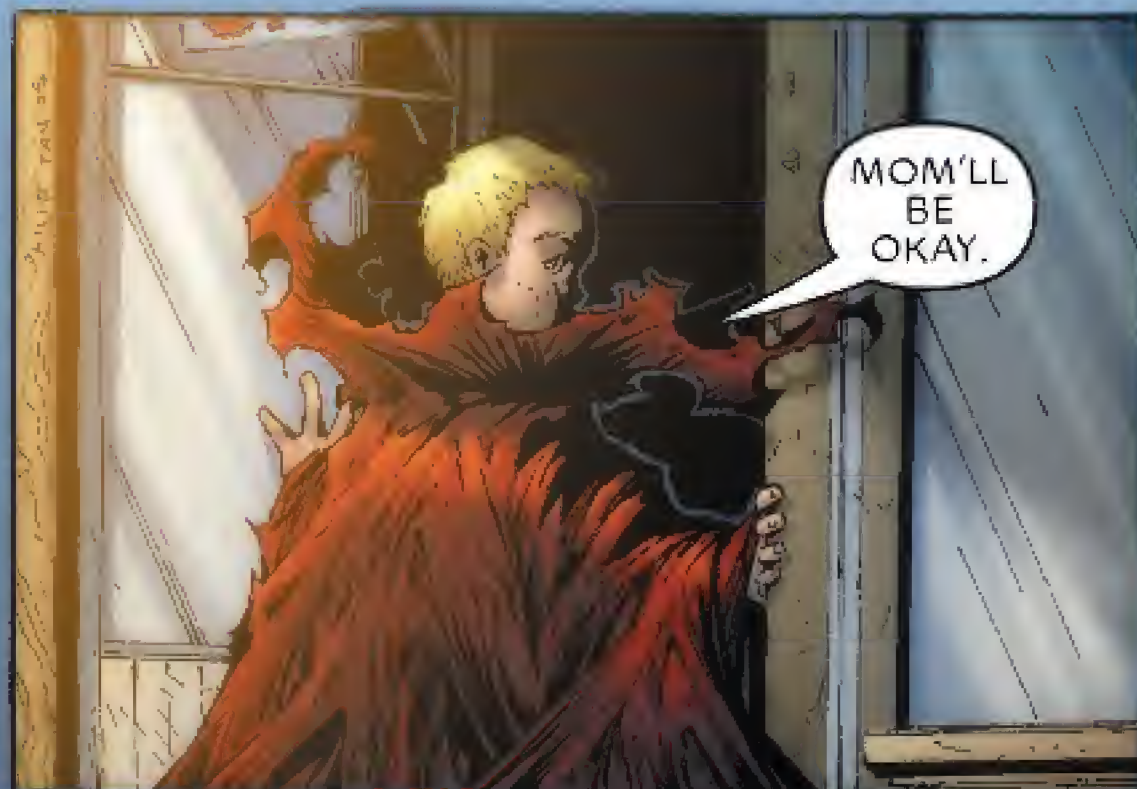
NOPE.
CAN'T BE
SUNDAY. OLD
MAN HARLAN
WOULDN'T OPEN
UP ON THE
SABBATH.



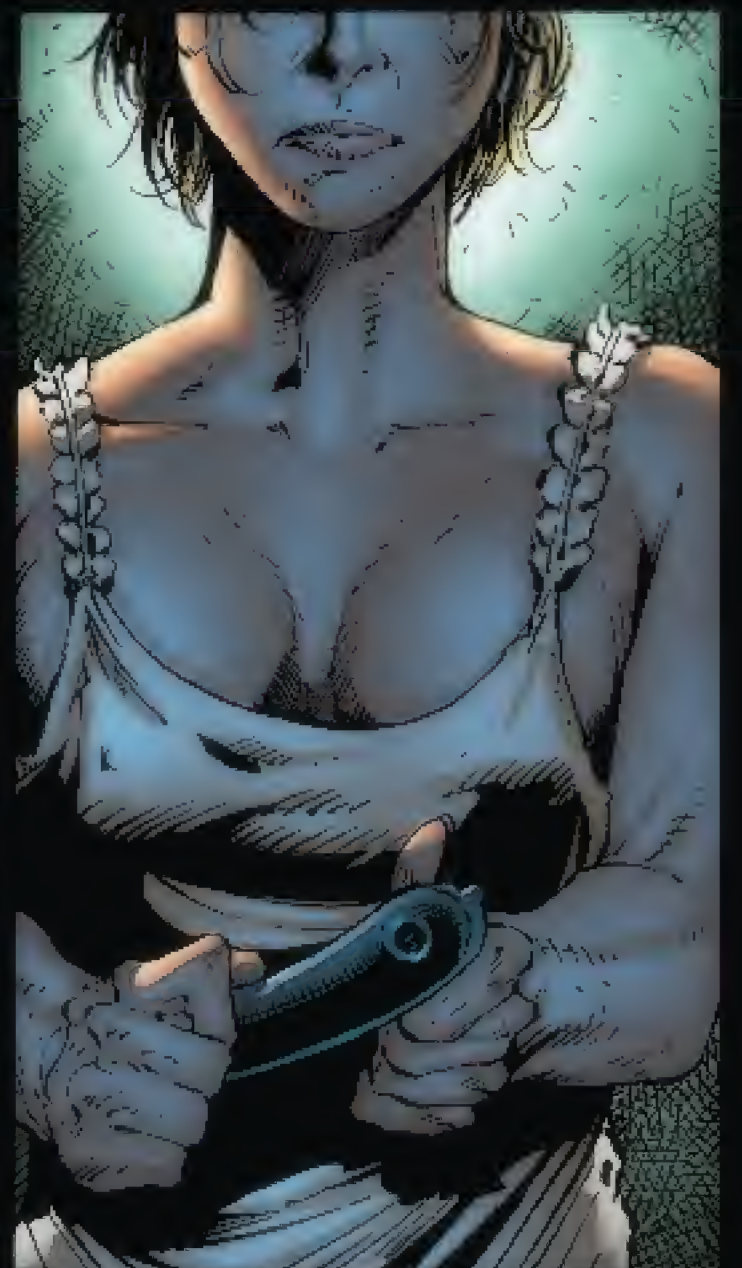
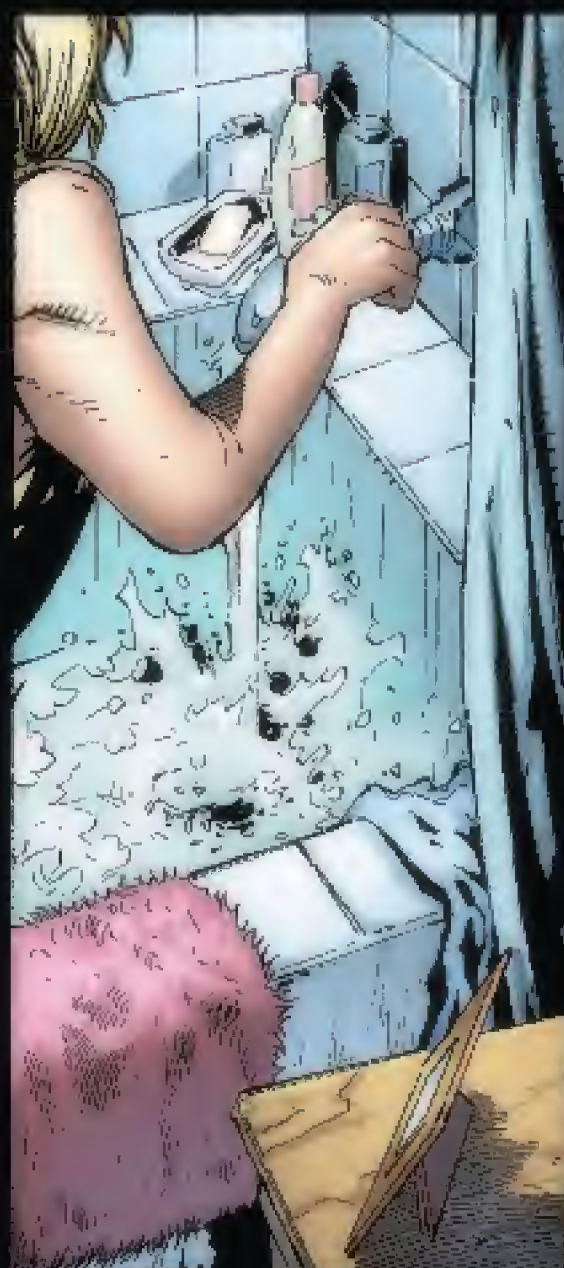
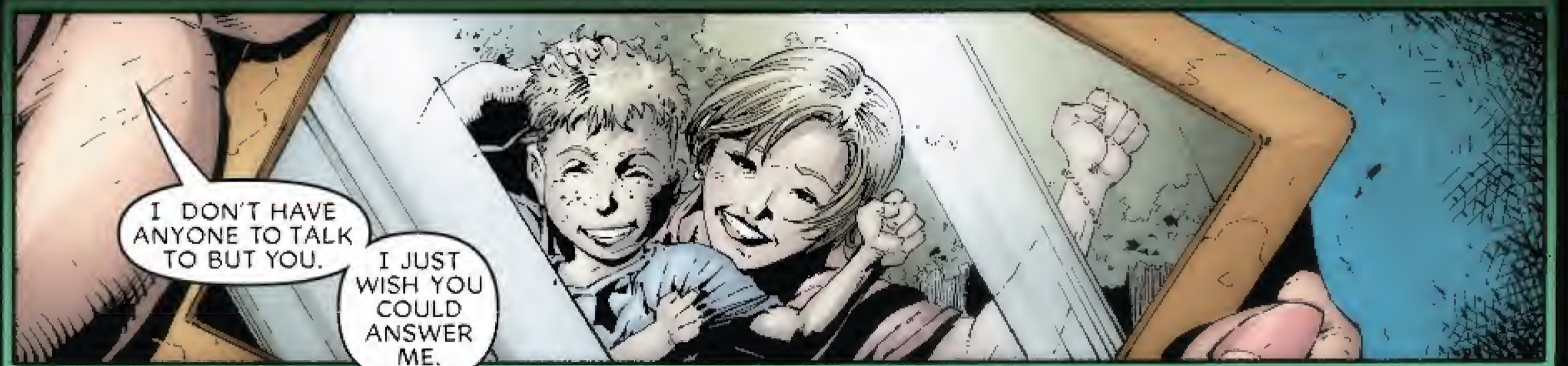
OH WOW!
CHECK OUT
THESE ACTION
FIGURES!



I'VE GOT
TIME. I CAN
BE HOME FROM
HERE IN TEN
MINUTES.

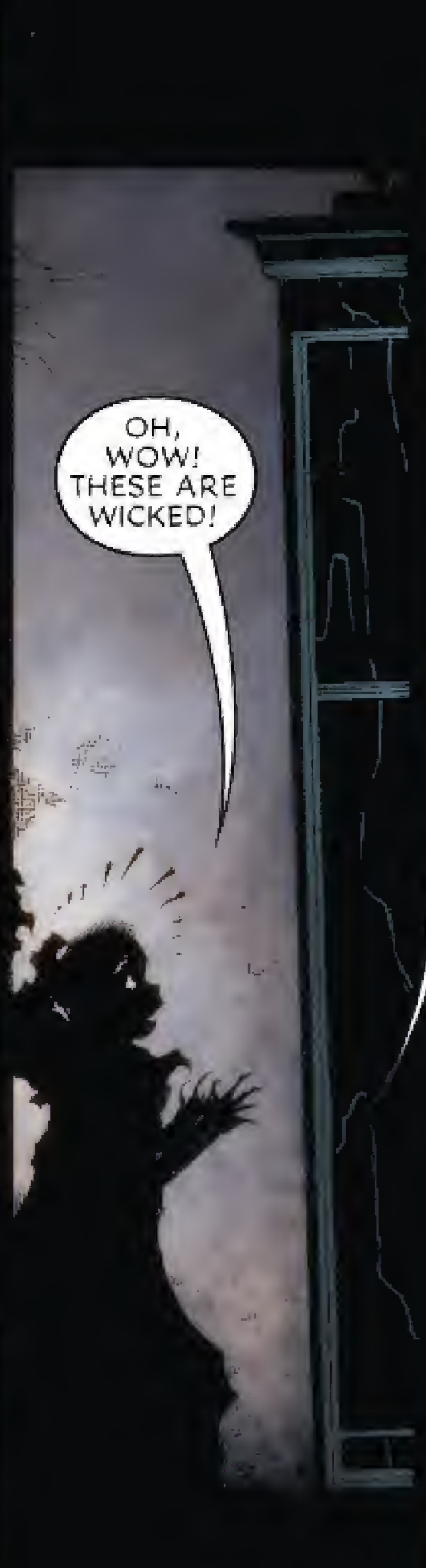


MOM'LL
BE
OKAY.





HELLO?
IS ANYONE
HERE?



OH,
WOW!
THESE ARE
WICKED!



HEY
KID!



CAN I HELP
YOU WITH
SOMETHING?

"THAT FACE.
I KNOW
THAT FACE."

WHAT'S A
MATTER? DON'T
YOU LIKE
CLOWNS?

MISTER
HARLAN?

YER RIGHT,
CLOWNS CAN
BE PRETTY DAMN
SCARY. THEY SCARE
THE CRAP OUT OF
ME, TOO!

BUT HEY,
NO WORRIES!
I AIN'T REALLY
A CLOWN.

OLD MAN
HARLAN RETIRED.
STORE'S UNDER NEW
MANAGEMENT.

NAME'S
BILLY KINCAID.
BUT MY FRIENDS
CALL ME CHILL
BILL.

CHILL
AS IN
COOL.

YOU
KNOW WHAT,
KID?... I AM SO
COOL I'VE BEEN
KNOWN TO PEE
ICE CUBES!

HAH! I
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE
THINKING.

"O-O-W-W-W-W-C-CH!"

AM I
RIGHT?

I THINK
I SHOULD GO:
MY MOM'S
WAITING FOR
ME.



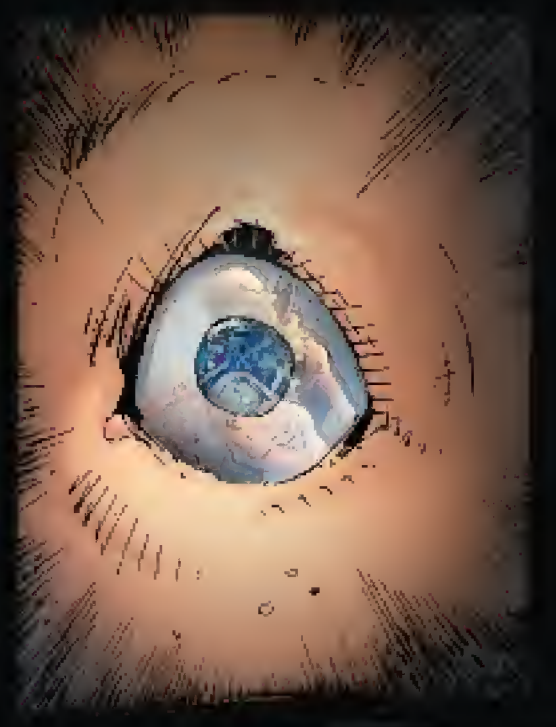
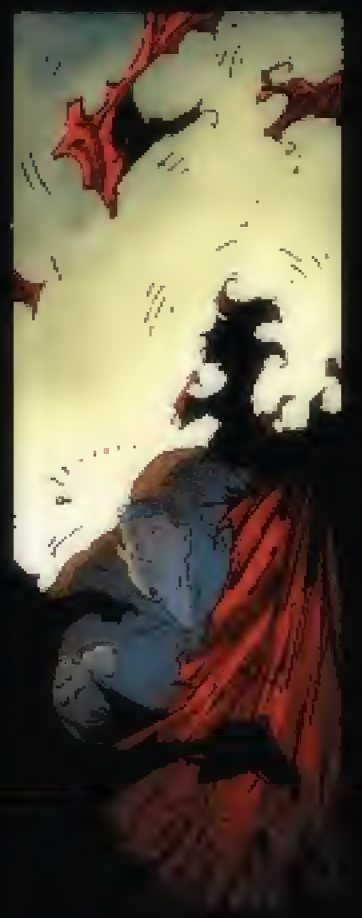


YOU LIKE THIS, SUCKER? MALEBOLGIA, LORD OF THE EIGHTH CIRCLE OF HELL.

LOOKS PRETTY MEAN, DON'T HE?



MALEBOLGIA?





WHAT THE HELL? THESE FIGURES ARE PRETTY STURDY AS A RULE.

AHH, NOT TO WORRY.



AS AN INTRODUCTORY OFFER I'M GONNA LET YOU HAVE SIX...NO, WHAT THE HELL, MAKE IT TEN FIGURES FOR FREE.

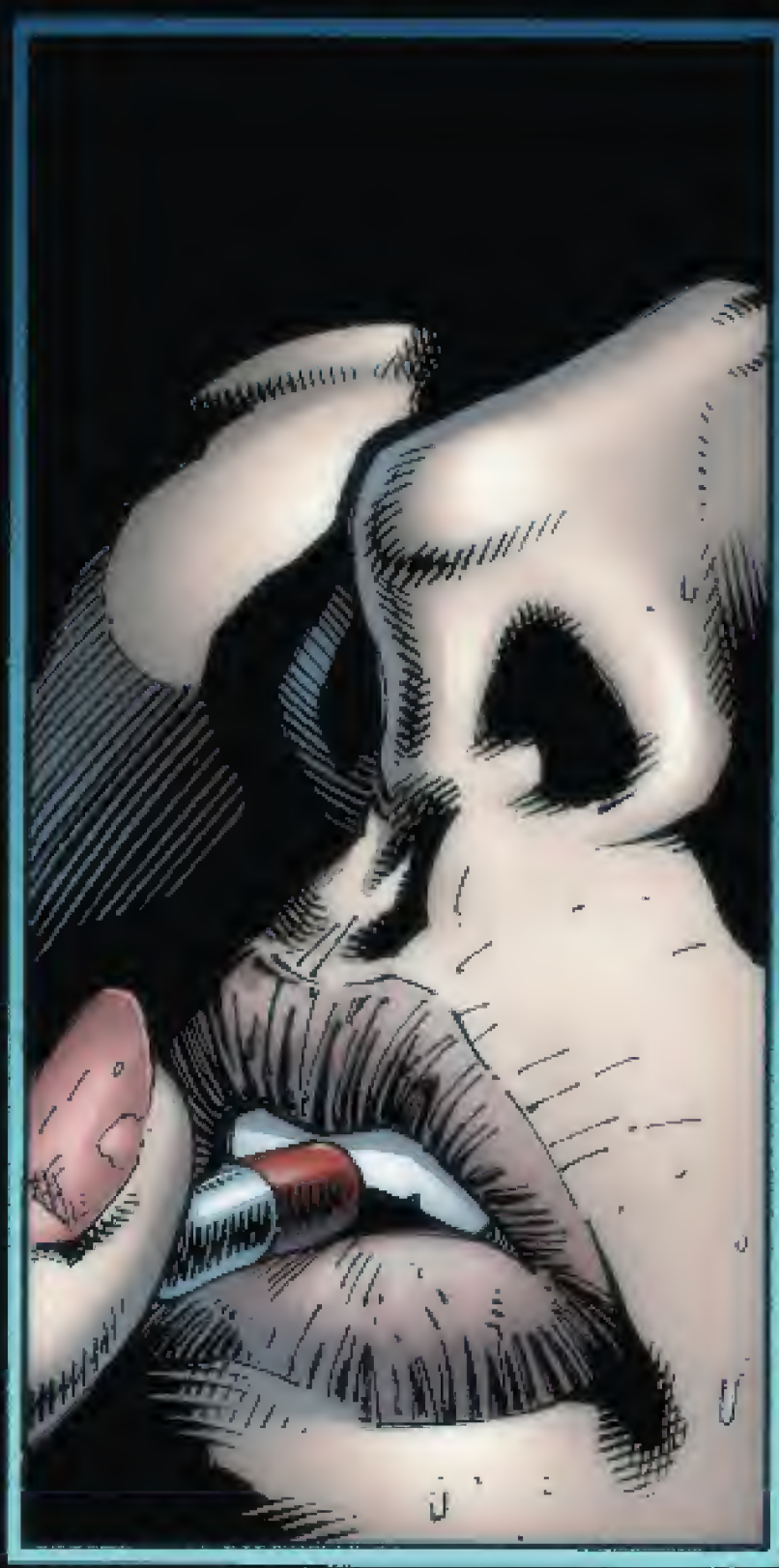
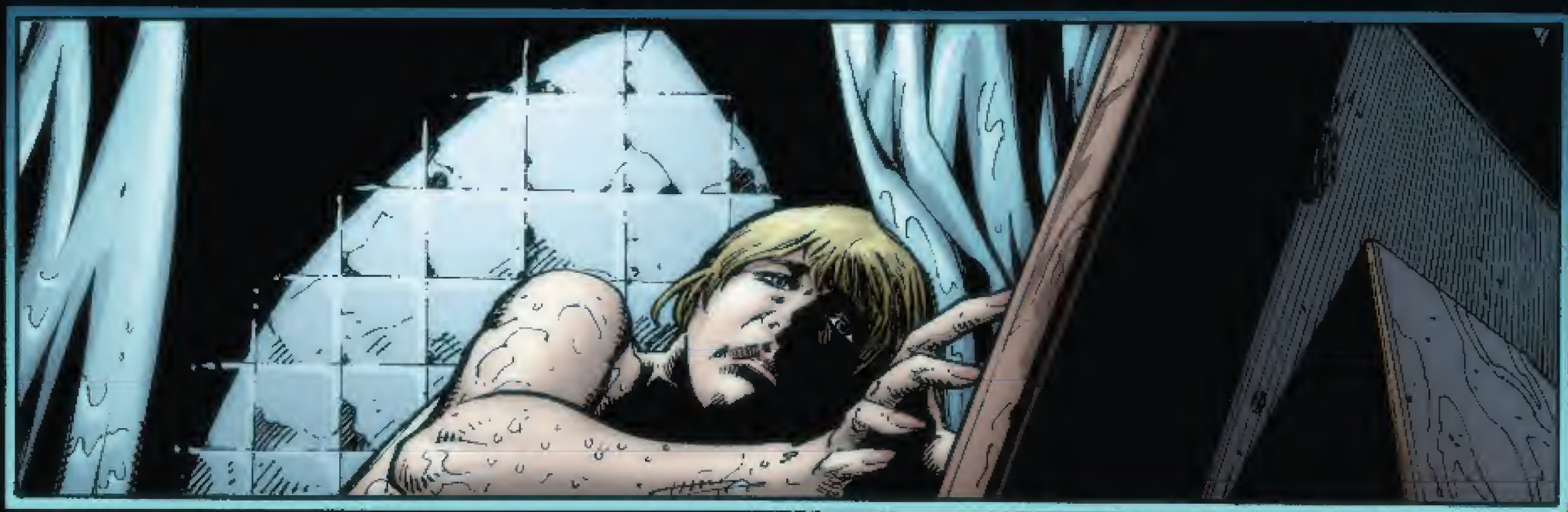
TEN FIGURES? FOR FREE?!

YEAH, HOW'S THAT FOR A DEAL?



WELL, UH...I REALLY SHOULD BE GOING...

OFFER'S ONLY GOOD FOR TODAY.



OH CHRIS... WHERE ARE YOU?








HERE, THAMUZ. I DID MY BEST WITH HIM: HIS HEART IS THE ONLY THING MISSING.

MISSING?

CERIL AND HIS SCAVENGERS APPARENTLY MISLAID IT.

FORGIVE US, LORD MAMMON.

MAMMON?



DOES
IT
LIVE?

MAMMON!

APPARENTLY
SIMMONS DOES NOT
REQUIRE A HEART
TO EXIST.

SIMMONS
ISN'T HERE
ANYMORE.
I AM SPAWN,
NOTHING BUT A
SPAWN!

OH BUT
THAT ISN'T TRUE,
IS IT? THERE IS
MUCH MORE TO
YOU THAN A MERE
HELLSPAWN.

AND WE
INTEND TO
EXTRACT ALL
THE SECRETS
YOU ARE
CONCEALING
FROM US.

HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN,
MAMMON? YOU
TRIED TO BREAK
ME ONCE
BEFORE.

I PUT MY
MARK ON YOU
THEN SO YOU
WOULD NEVER
FORGET.



ENOUGH!

IT IS I TO
WHOM YOU WILL
ANSWER. AND WHEN
I AM DONE, YOU WILL
BEG TO REVEAL
EVERY SORDID
SECRET THAT LURKS
IN THE DARKEST,
FORGOTTEN
CORNER OF YOUR
SOUL.

I AM
THAMUZ,
MASTER OF
TORTURES!

LOOK
AROUND YOU,
HELLSPAWN. SEE
WHAT I HAVE
SUMMONED
HERE...



BEHOLD YOUR
INQUISITORS!!





SPAWN

PHILIP
TAN '05


DANNY
GIM




SPAWN

PHILIP
TAN '05


DANNY
GRIFFIN



WHAT'S
THAT?!



oh this?
hmm,
lemme see
now...



guys
in the pen
call it a
shiv.

i like to
call mine a
*kiddiee-
slicer!*



that's
a terrific
costume,
real snug
fit.

can't even
see where the
costume ends and
little chrissy
begins.

gonna
be a messy
job peeling
it off.



STAY
AWAY! I'M
WARNING
YOU!

oh yeah?
what are you
gonna d-



da
da
da
kn!!

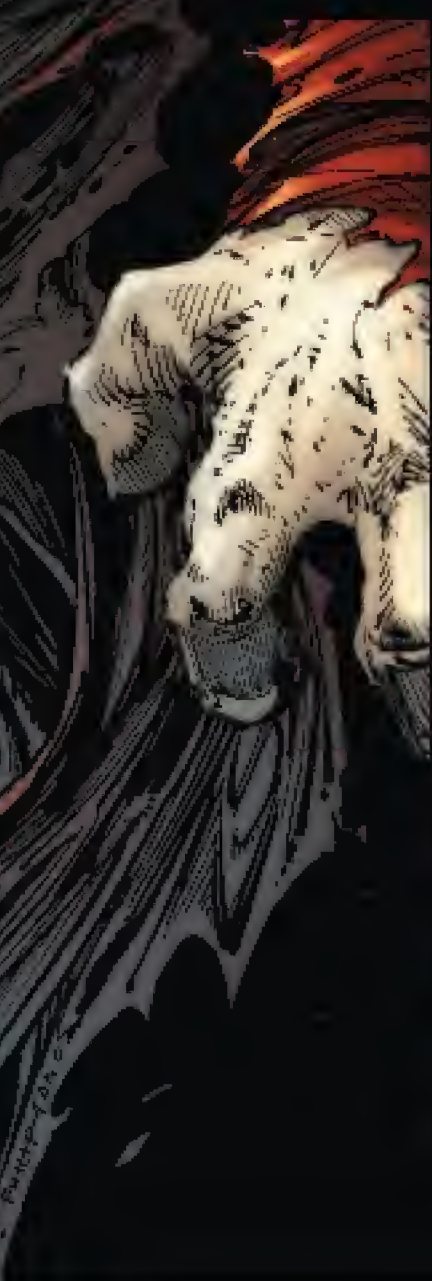
lemme
down you
little
puke!

I THINK
YOU SHOULD
DROP THAT
KNIFE, MISTER
KINCAID.



no
way!

i'll slice
and dice you
and then i'm
gonna eat your
eyeballs!



ullikke



nnk--
okay, o-
kay!

THUN
K!

I'M
GOING
TO PUT YOU
DOWN NOW...
THEN I'M
LEAVING.

AND
DON'T
FOLLOW
ME, BECAUSE
I HAVE A
FEELING THIS
COSTUME
WOULD LOVE
TO DO SOME-
THING REALLY
HORRIBLE
TO YOU.

yeah! go
on! get out
of here ass-
wipe!!

think
you're so
smart. well,
theres's a price
for wearing
that costume!
you might
wanna take a
look in a
mirror.

'cause
you ain't
looking so
hot!

NEW PLAYHOUSE

gaahh!
no more
free offers
for that
ungrateful
little
toe-rag!

TELL ME
HELLSPAWN!
WHAT'S YOUR
SECRET?

WHAT
THREAT
DO YOU POSE
TO SATAN'S
MIGHTY
FORCES?

BEGIN
YOUR
TORTURES
THAMUZ.

MY
PLEASURE,
LORD
MAMMON.

FOR
COUNTLESS
MILLENNIA, THAMUZ
HAS NEVER FAILED TO
EXTRACT A CONFESSION.
YOU COULD SPARE
YOURSELF THIS
PAIN.

Nooooo!

LOOK AROUND
SIMMONS. EVERYONE
YOU FEAR IS GATHERED
HERE. AND EACH IS
EAGER TO BE SET
LOOSE ON YOU...

...YOUR OLD FRIEND
MIKE KONIECZNY.
HE LOST HIS HUMANITY
BECAUSE OF YOU. HE
BECAME CY-GOR.

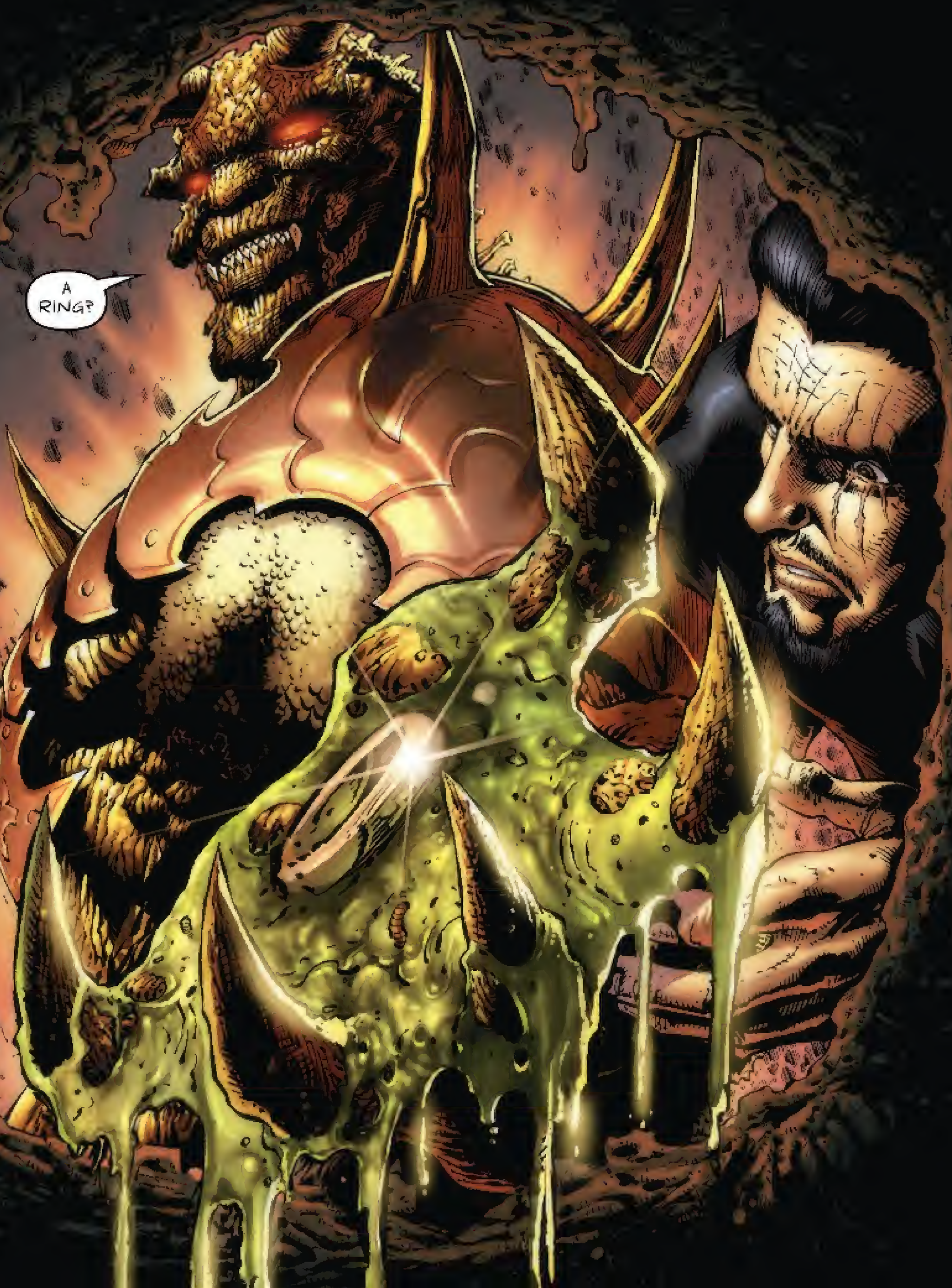
SHOULD
I LET HIM BE
FIRST?

NO!
MY CLAIM
IS GREATER.
THIS BASTARD
CUT OFF MY
WINGS AND
BANISHED ME
FROM THE
SIGHT OF
HEAVEN!

MY FIERY
SWORD WILL
LOOSEN HIS
TONGUE.

I JUST
WANNA
TICKLE HIS
FUNNY
BONE...

THEN
SUCK THE
FRIGGIN'
MARROW
OUT OF
IT!



LET
ME SEE
THAT.

AL AND
WANDA
FOREVER.

HOW
QUAINT.



GIVE
THAT
BACK!

YOU'LL
NEVER
TOUCH IT
AGAIN!

NEVER!

SO, AL
SIMMONS IS STILL
BURIED IN THERE
SOMEPLACE.

BUT
THE REAL
QUESTION
IS, WHAT
ELSE ARE
YOU?





DON'T FEEL SO GOOD.
MY FACE FEELS WEIRD. THAT
MAN OF MIRACLES GUY...HE SAID
I NEEDED TO BE HOME BY SIX OR
SOMETHING BAD'S GOING TO
HAPPEN TO MOM.

BUT I NEED
TO SIT DOWN FOR
A MINUTE, FIRST. I'M
JUST SO TIRED...



AN OLD
COMIC BOOK?
SOMEONE MUST
HAVE LEFT IT
HERE.

TALES OF
HELLSPAWN.
WOW! THAT
COVER'S
COOL!

"IT
CAME
FROM
BEYOND
THE
GRAVE"



MAN!
THIS IS
REALLY
OLD!

HEY,
WAIT A
MINUTE,
THAT IS TOO
WEIRD...



CHRIS, DON'T FORGET. GO STRAIGHT TO GRANMA'S. STAY ON THE ROAD WHERE IT'S SAFE...

...AND MAKE SURE YOU'RE HOME BY SIX O'CLOCK.

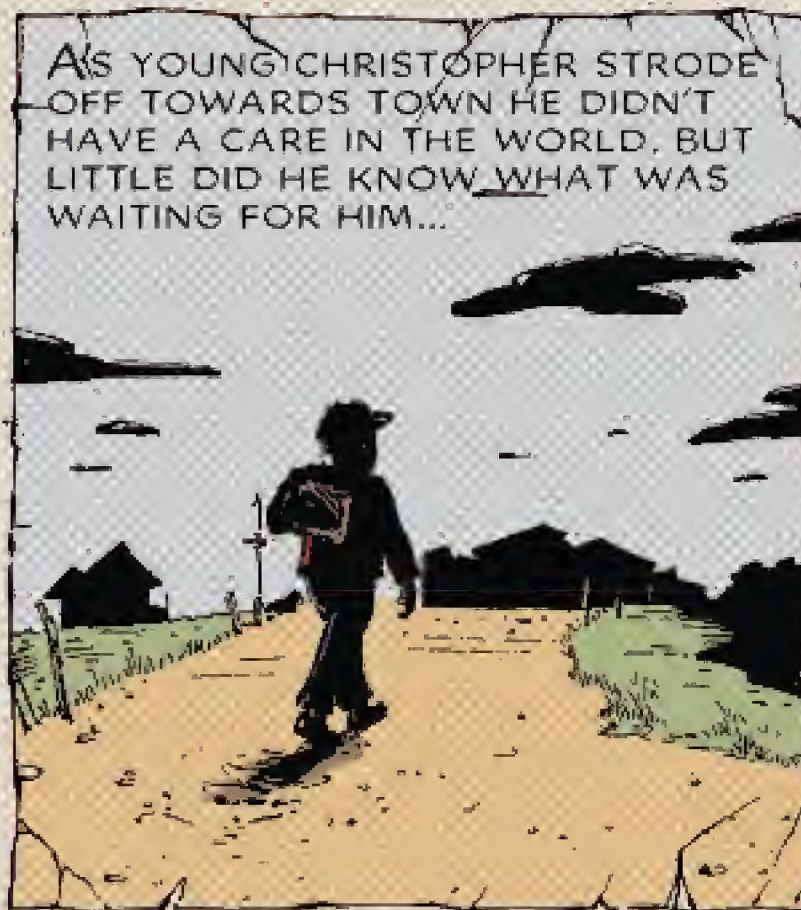
OKAY MOM. I PROMISE.

TH- THAT'S ME!



I CAN'T HELP WORRYING. HE'S SUCH A DELICATE BOY.

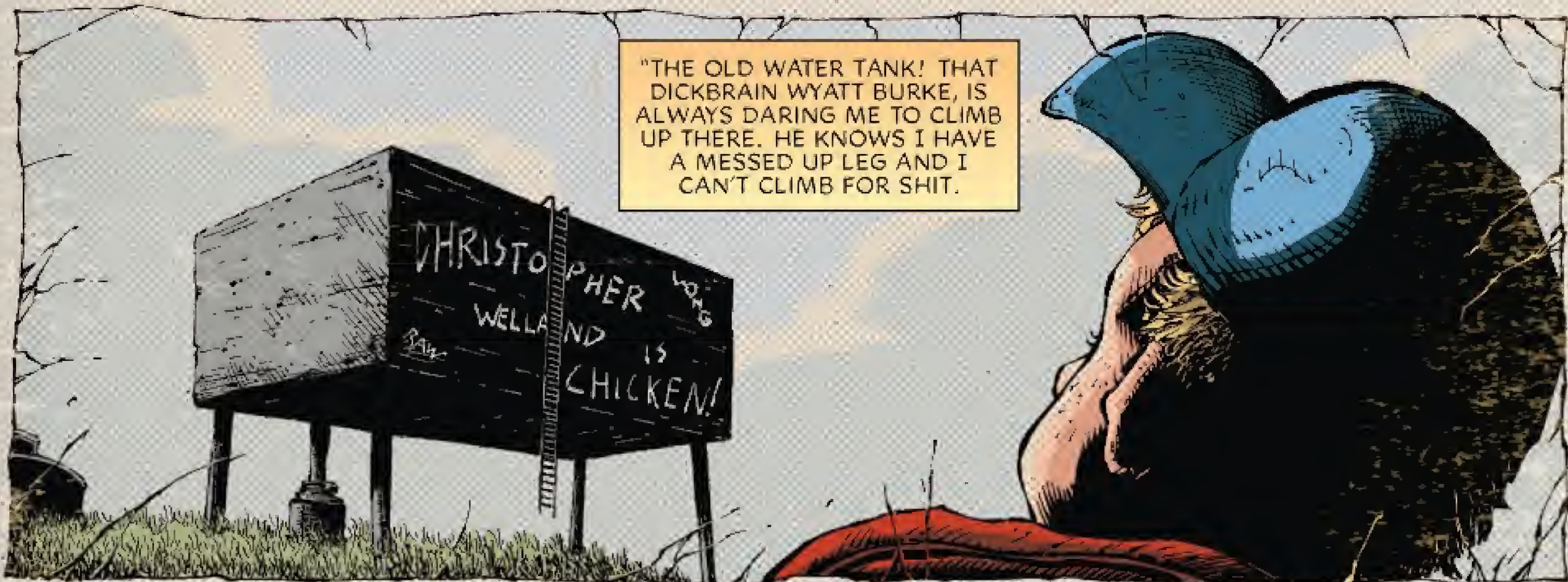
AND MOM!



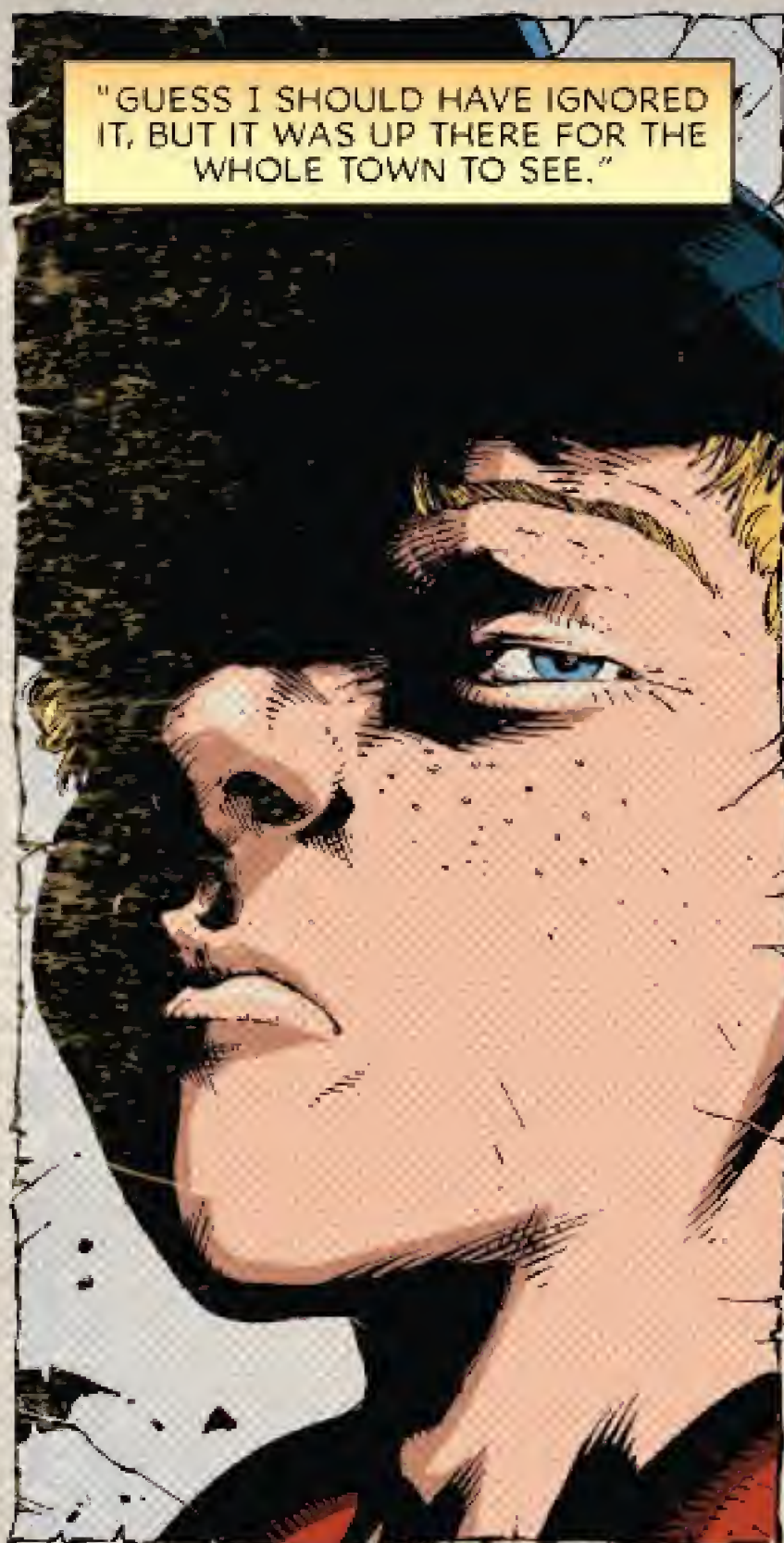
AS YOUNG CHRISTOPHER STRODE OFF TOWARDS TOWN HE DIDN'T HAVE A CARE IN THE WORLD. BUT LITTLE DID HE KNOW WHAT WAS WAITING FOR HIM...



"I REMEMBER THIS.



"THE OLD WATER TANK! THAT DICKBRAIN WYATT BURKE, IS ALWAYS DARING ME TO CLIMB UP THERE. HE KNOWS I HAVE A MESSED UP LEG AND I CAN'T CLIMB FOR SHIT.



"GUESS I SHOULD HAVE IGNORED IT, BUT IT WAS UP THERE FOR THE WHOLE TOWN TO SEE."



SHOW 'EM WHO'S CHICKEN!



IT WAS A HELL OF A CLIMB.



MY LEG WAS KILLING ME...



"...BUT I MADE IT. THERE WAS NO ONE AROUND TO SEE THAT I HAD MADE IT, BUT IT FELT GOOD UP THERE. I FELT LIKE I WAS ON TOP OF THE WORLD."



"BUT I AM SUCH
A MORON."



"NOW
THEY'D ALL
KNOW I
CLIMBED UP
THERE.
THEY'D ALL
KNOW I
WASN'T
CHICKEN..."



"...IF
THEY
EVER
FOUND
ME..."





OH MY GOD!
CAN YOU STAY
AFLOAT WHILE I
GET HELP?

N-NO. I
DON'T THINK SO.
I HIT MY HEAD AND
I FEEL KIND'A
WOOZY.

I KEEP
GOING
UNDER.



"SHE DIDN'T EVEN THINK TWICE. I MEAN,
NOT EVEN A SECOND'S HESITATION."

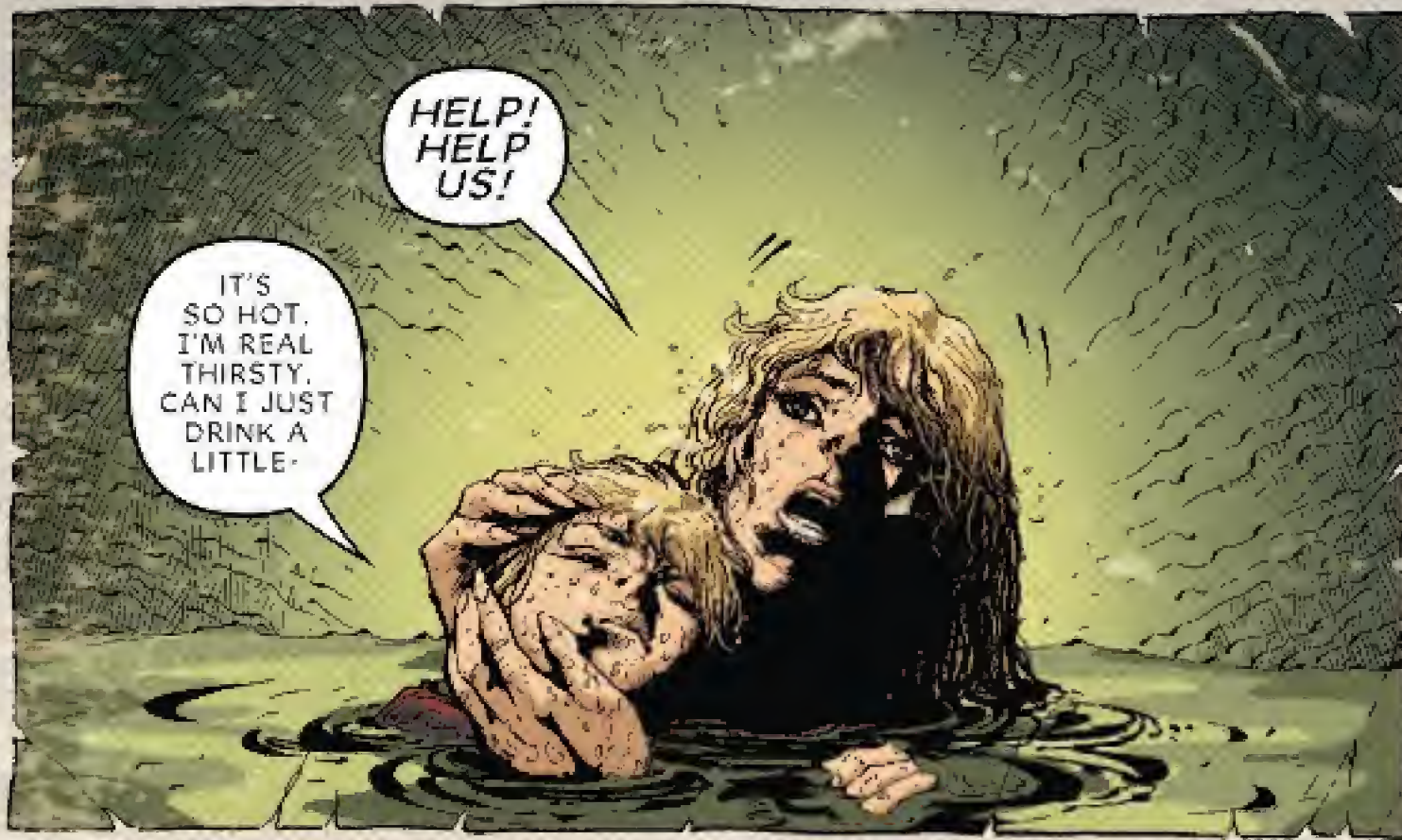


"MAN, I
LOVE MY
MOM."



JUST HOLD
ONTO ME. IT'S OKAY,
I'M TOUCHING THE
BOTTOM.



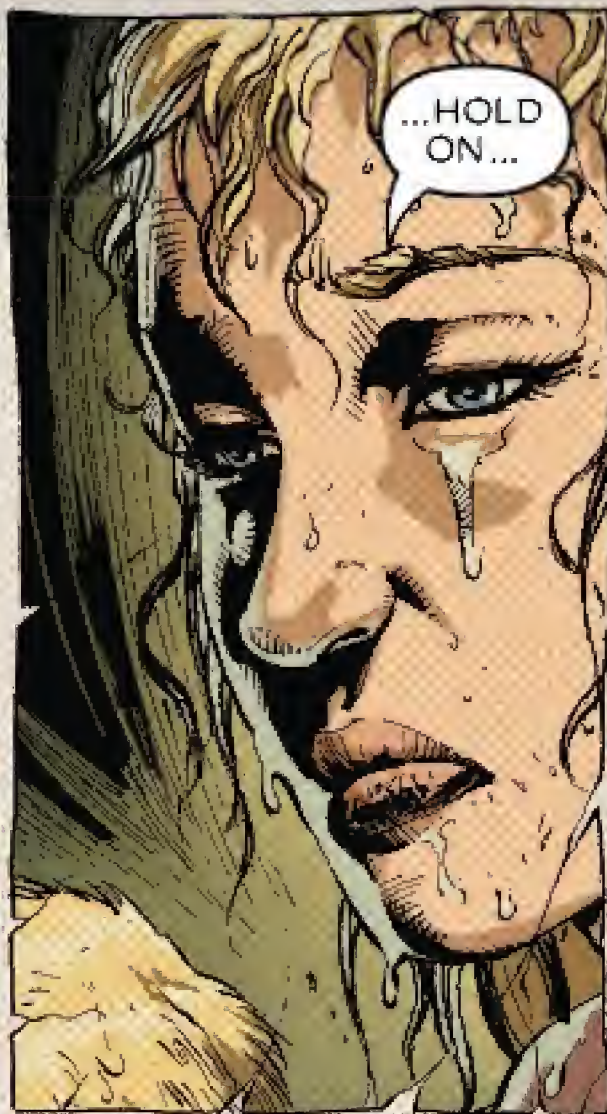




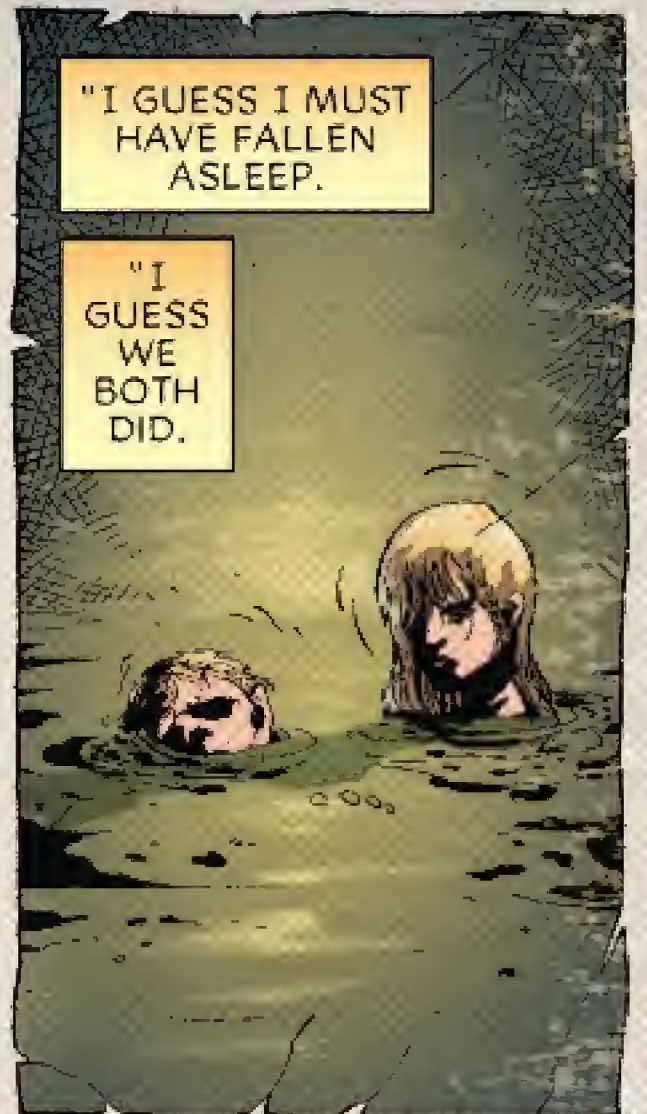
SOMEONE
WILL FIND
US.



JUST
HOLD ON
SWEET-
HEART...



...HOLD
ON...



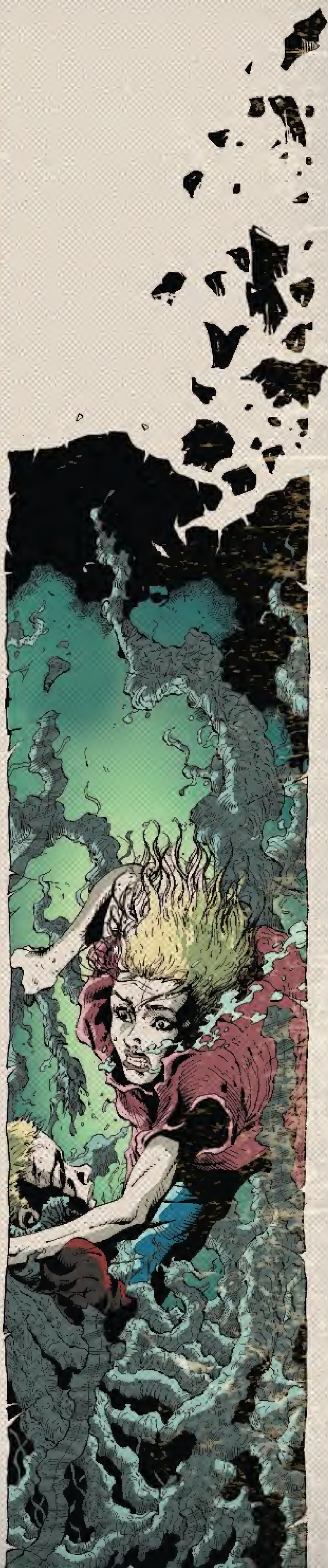
"I GUESS I MUST
HAVE FALLEN
ASLEEP."

"I
GUESS
WE
BOTH
DID."



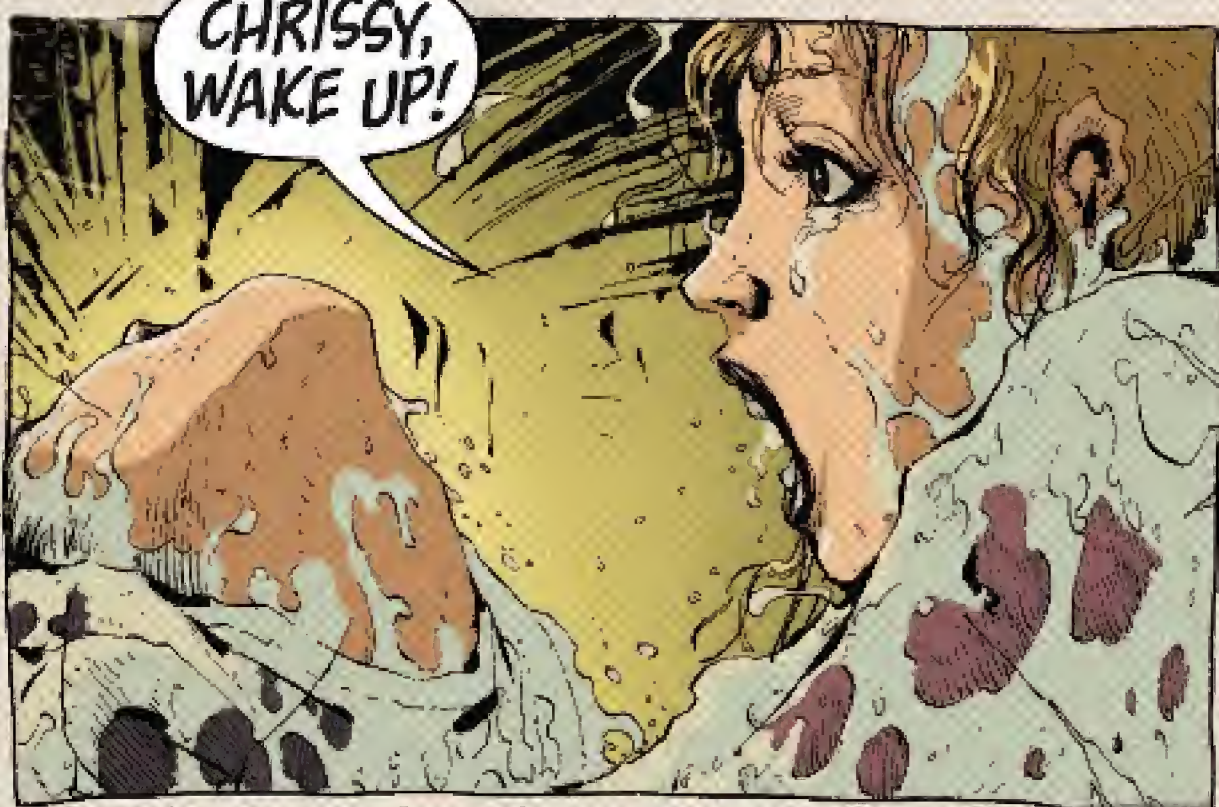
"I JUST KINDA
DRIFTED AWAY."

"...INTO
THE
GREEN."





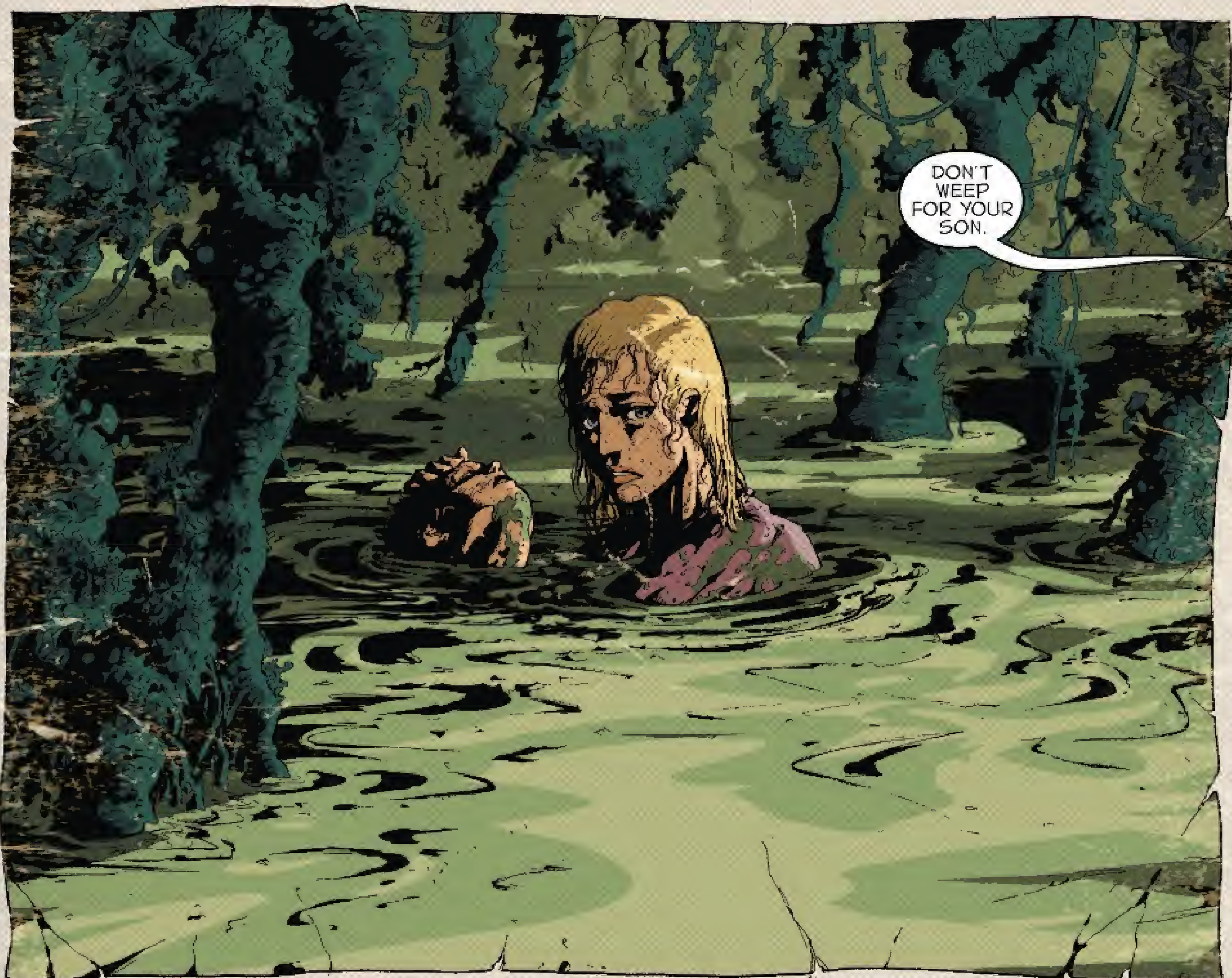
CHRIS!
NO,
BABY!




CHRISSY,
WAKE UP!



NOOOOO!



DON'T
WEEP
FOR YOUR
SON.



I HAVE
NEED OF
HIM.

I WILL TAKE
CARE OF HIM. AND
ONE DAY I WILL SEND
HIM BACK TO YOU,
SO YOU MAY SEE HE
HAS COME TO
NO HARM.

I PROMISE
YOU. HE WILL
RETURN.

WILL
YOU
GIVE
HIM TO
ME?

Y-YES.



I
REMEMBER!
OH MY GOD!
I DIED.

I DIED!!



I'VE ONLY
GOT FIVE
MINUTES.



I'M
GOING
TO BE
LATE!

SHE'S
WAITING.



I'M SORRY
BABY, I JUST
CAN'T WAIT ANY
LONGER.



IT
DOESN'T
EVEN
HURT...



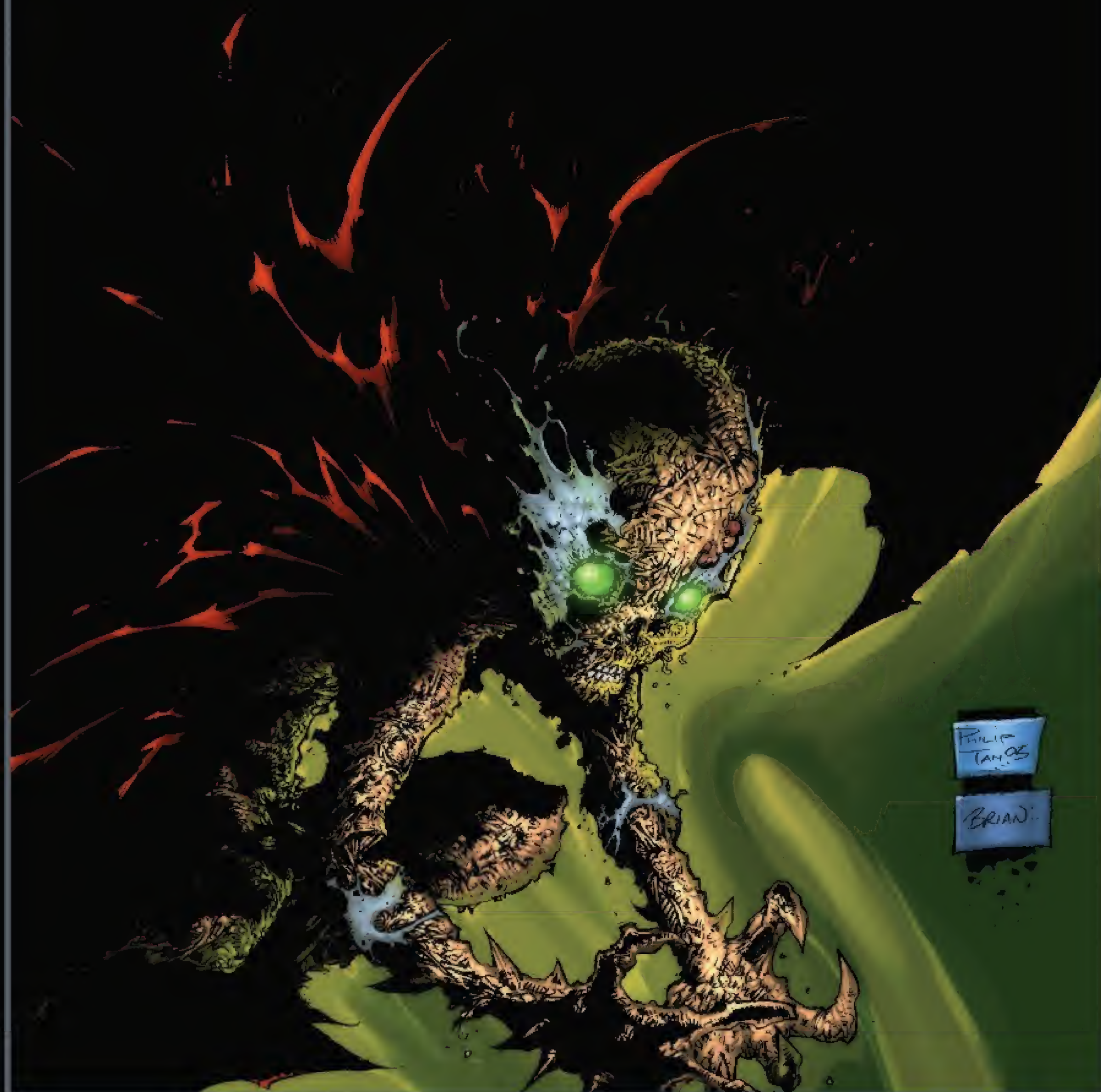


I'M
HOME,
MOM.

TO BE
CONTINUED...



SPAWN®



PHILIP
TANOS

BRIAN

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DIGITAL
EDITION

SPAWN.COM



CHRIS...



IS IT
REALLY
YOU?





I'M
SORRY
CHRIS...

WHO'S
THAT?

OH,
THAT'S... A
FRIEND.



IT'S HER,
ISN'T IT?
THE GREEN
LADY.

SHE
PROMISED
SHE WOULD
BRING YOU
BACK.



LADY?



COME
ON
CHRIS.



TIME
TO
LEAVE.



SORRY, MOM BUT I CAN'T STAY.

IT'S OKAY.

I JUST NEEDED TO SEE YOU AGAIN.



I LOVE YOU.

I KNOW YOU DO.



YOU TAKE CARE AND BE GOOD.



WHY DOES SHE THINK YOU'RE A WOMAN?

REALITY IS MORE MALLEABLE THAN YOU MIGHT IMAGINE, CHRIS.

SHE SEES WHAT SHE WANTS TO SEE. YOU'LL ALWAYS BE THE LITTLE BOY SHE LOVES. AND THAT'S FINE.

"SHE'LL BE ABLE TO GO ON WITH HER LIFE NOW."



BUT WE BOTH KNOW YOU'RE MORE THAN THAT NOW...

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE YOU'VE BEEN ALL THE YEARS SINCE YOU DIED?

DO YOU REMEMBER A MAN CALLED AL SIMMONS?

"A COURAGEOUS MAN. A GOOD MAN. BUT HE LOST HIS INNOCENCE."

"HE WAS A WARRIOR. TRAINED TO KILL FOR HIS GOVERNMENT."



"AND EACH DEATH WAS ANOTHER NEEDLE OF ICE IN HIS HEART."

"HIS HEART IS COLD CHRIS. NOW HE NEEDS YOU."

"YOU MUST GO TO HIM..."





"...OR HE WILL
SOON DIE!"

REMIND
ME ONCE MORE,
MAMMON. WHY THIS
PIECE OF DIRT IS A
THREAT TO US?

PERHAPS YOU'RE
RIGHT. MAYBE HE'S NO MORE
THAN A **FAILED** HELLSPAWN
AFTER ALL.

AND
IF THAT'S
TRUE, THEN
HE'S OF
NO USE TO
ME.

LET
US FINISH
HIM.



VERY WELL.
THAMUZ, LET YOUR
INQUISITORS DO
THEIR WORST.

THERE'S
DEATH
BEYOND
THE
EXTINCTION
OF THE
BODY.

TEACH HIM
THE MEANING OF
ANNIHILATION.



TEAR
HIS
SOUL
APART



YOU'LL
FIND SPAWN
IN THE PIT.

THE PIT?
WHERE'S
THAT?

THE
ENTRANCE IS IN
THE FAIRGROUND,
INSIDE THE
FUNHOUSE.



I USED
TO COME
HERE WITH
GRANMA AND
GRAMPS.

IT LOOKS...
DIFFERENT.

I TOLD YOU
CHRIS. NOTHING
STAYS THE SAME.
THE WHOLE WORLD IS
CHANGING, AND YOU
WILL HAVE A HAND IN
DECIDING WHAT IT
BECOMES.

YOU'RE
GOING
TO LEAVE
ME AGAIN
AREN'T
YOU?

I HAVE
FAITH IN YOU
CHRISTOPHER.

FIND SPAWN.

DON'T LET
ANYTHING
STOP YOU.





UM...
DO YOU GUYS
KNOW WHERE THE
FUNHOUSE
IS?

COME
GET SOME
ICE CREAM.
IT'S FREE.

THEY'VE
GOT ALL
KINDS.

but just
to show there's
no hard *feelings*,
why not try a
sample of my
wares?

got a
flavor for
every taste.
from *anthrax*
thru *zymosis*.
i got 'em
all.



well
howdee
chrissie baby!
how's it
hangin'?

WHAT'RE
YOU DOING
HERE?

like it says
in the good
book, "wherever
two or three are
gathered in my
name, there am i
in the *midst* of
them."



I'M NOT
AFRAID
OF
YOU!

don't you
worry, i *learned*
my lesson. you
whupped my
butt *good*.



there
you go kiddo.
agent orange with
a generous dollop
of prussic
sauce.

THANKS,
MISTER
CHILL-EE.

MMM...
TASTES
GOOD.

YOU
SHOULD
TRY
SOME.

I DON'T WANT
YOUR ICE CREAM.
I'M GOING TO THE
FUN HOUSE.

the *fun*
house!! why
didn't you
say so?

the
fun house
is **my**
house!

👉 Tonite at 👈
THE FUN HOUSE

★ THE SLAUGHTER OF THE ★
INNOCENTS ★

AUTHENTIC RE-ENACTMENTS OF
BLOODY MURDER

★ **!!28 VICTIMS!!** ★

28 UNIQUE DISPLAYS OF
Torture, Terror
★ and **TRAUMA** ★



c'mon
slowpoke, the
show's about
to start.



I JUST
NEED TO
GET TO THE
PIT.

you want
to get to the pit,
then you have to sit
through the *show*.
no show, no *pit*.
understand?

so... you
think you got
the *stomach*
for it?

FUN HOUSE
YOU'LL DIE LAUGHING



look at you.
the *picture* of
innocence.

you
know
what
kid?

I *devour*
innocence.



what?!

did you
take those
from the *toy*
shop?

shit! you
could'a had a
limited edition
redeemer or a
warrior *lilith*
mutation...

...and you
chose those
losers!!



ALRIGHT, SWEETY.
I'LL BE HOME SOON.
HOW'S LILY? IS HER COUGH
CLEARED UP YET?

GOOD.

YES, I
PROMISE.
REAL
SOON.

MORE REPORTS ARE
COMING IN OF WEIRD PHENOMENA
OCCURRING AROUND THE GLOBE.
WE HAVE FOUR CONFIRMED SIGHTINGS
OF A MOTHMAN IN WEST VIRGINIA, LIVE
FOOTAGE OF THE LOCH NESS MONSTER,
AND A UFO IS CURRENTLY HOVERING
IN PLAIN VIEW OVER THE SWISS
TOWN OF ZINAL.



YOU KNOW,
THIS COULD
ACTUALLY BE A
NATURAL PHENOMENON.
NOTHING
PARANORMAL.

GIVEN THE
APPROPRIATE METEOROLOGICAL
CIRCUMSTANCES, A TORNADO
CAN LIFT SMALL ANIMALS
UP TO --

OH YEAH,
EINSTEIN?

THEN
EXPLAIN
THIS!

FIRST
RIVERS OF
BLOOD, NOW
UFOS AND
MUTANT
TOADS...

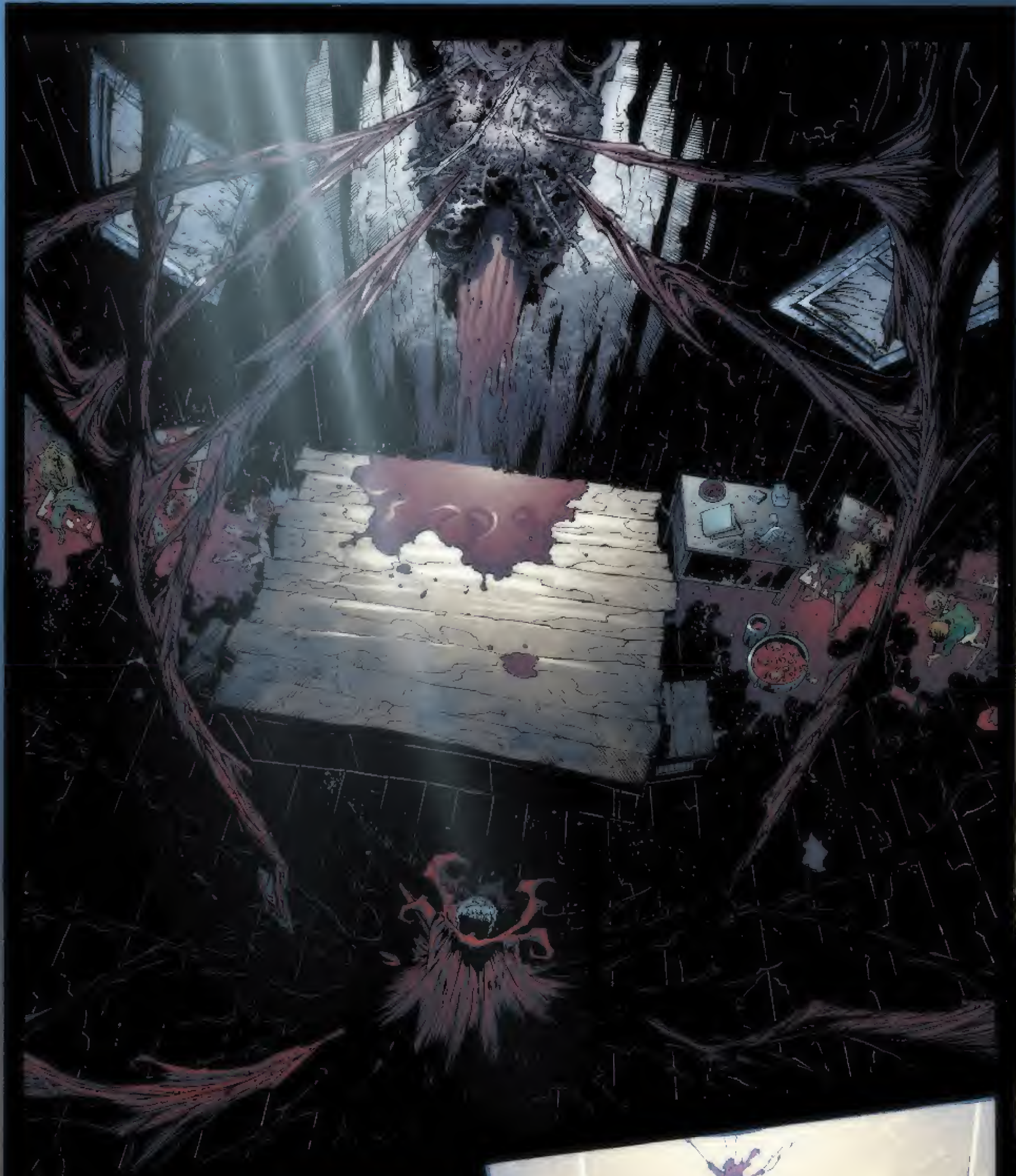
I
THINK...

...I
THINK
WE NEED
TO FIND
AL.

I KNEW
YOU WERE
GOING TO SAY
THAT!

THERE'S NO
WAY IN HELL
I'M GOING NEAR
THAT ARROGANT
SONOFABITCH.





THAT'S
BILLY
KINCAID.

WHAT
DOES IT TAKE
TO KILL THAT
SON OF A
BITCH!

SAM, UP
THERE.



I THINK
THAT'LL
DO IT.





KID,
WE'LL
GET YOU
HELP.

NO!

I HAVE TO
FIND SPAWN.
HE'S IN A PLACE
CALLED
'THE PIT.'



I THINK I
JUST
FOUND IT.



THAT'S
WHERE I NEED
TO GO.

WE'RE
GOING
WITH
YOU.

HELEN?



I'M GOING
TO BE LONGER
THAN I
THOUGHT.





I'VE GOT
THE BOY, YOU
TAKE THE
POINT.

DON'T
GET TOO
FAR BEHIND
ME.



TWITCH!
IN FRONT
OF YOU!



BLAM!





WHAT'S THIS?

WHO PERMITTED THE LIVING TO ENTER HERE?

SHUT YOUR MOUTH!

SAM, I THINK THAT'S SPAWN OVER THERE.



IT IS. AND I SEE YOU'VE BROUGHT ANOTHER THAT WEARS THE COSTUME OF A HELLSPOWN.

HOW UNFORTUNATE.

THOUGH YOU CAN TELL HIM GOODBYE...

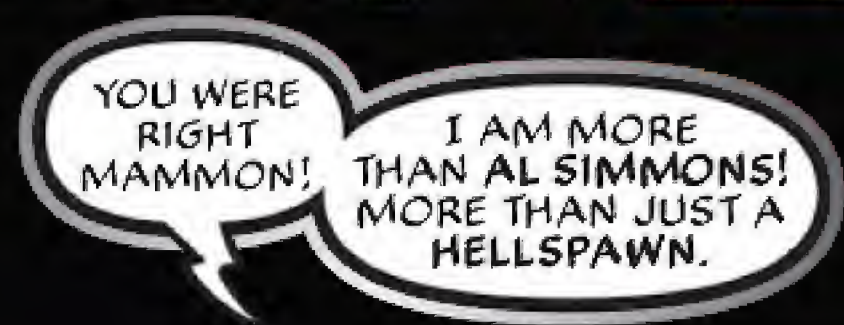
BECAUSE WE'RE ABOUT TO ERASE HIM FROM THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE FOREVER.

PLEASE, I NEED TO GET TO SPAWN?

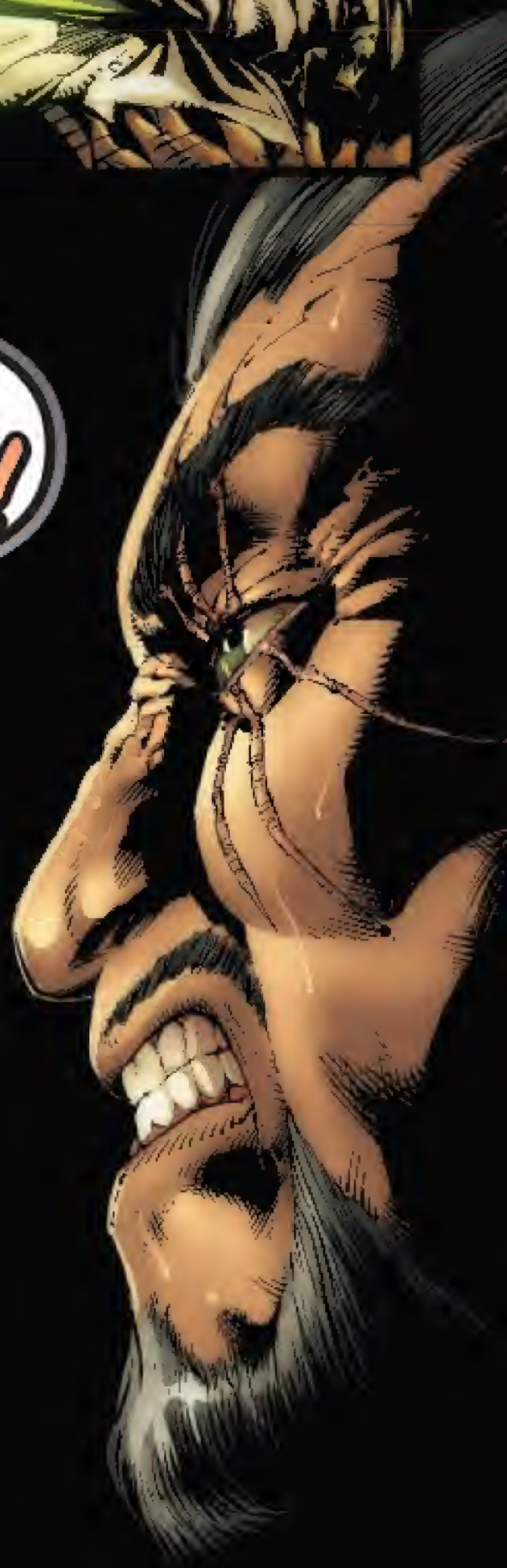


SPAWN?

WHO ARE YOU?



I AM MORE THAN AL SIMMONS! MORE THAN JUST A HELLSPAWN.





TO BE CONTINUED.

SPAWN®



PHILIP
TANOS
DANNY
GRIFFIN

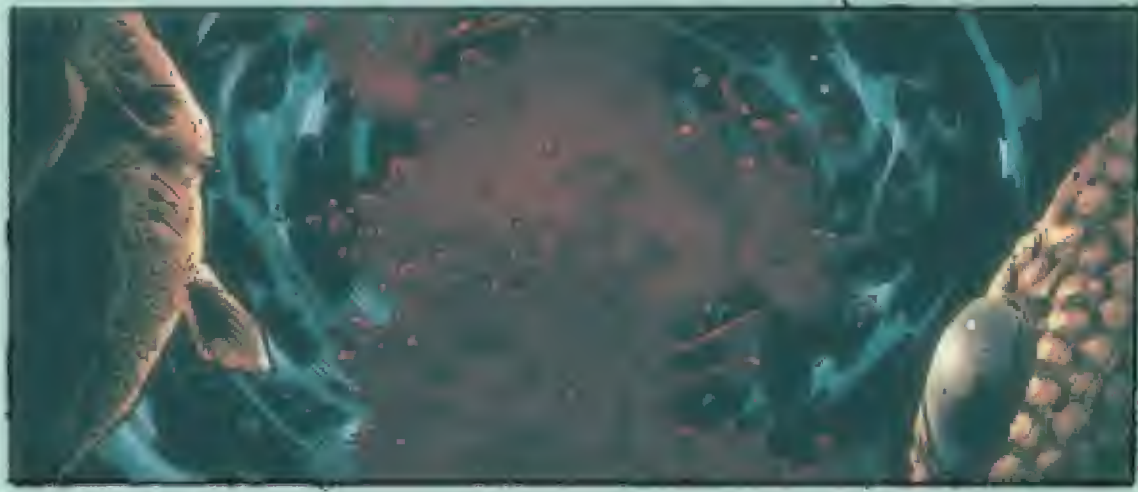
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"FIRE TRUCKS."



"EMERGENCY SIRENS."



"AND SOME COOL RED BLOOD!"

YUP! RED'S MY FAVORITE COLOR, FOR SURE!



WHAT'CHA PAINTING, KATIE?

FROGS.

YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG... YOU DUMMY.

NOPE. THIS IS JUST LIKE WHAT MOMMY SAYS WHEN SHE'S PUTTING ON MAKE-UP.

SHE CALLS IT 'IMPROVING ON NATURE.'

YEAH? WELL IT TOTALLY SUCKS!



ARE YOU TWO AT IT AGAIN? CAN'T YOU BE FRIENDS AND PLAY TOGETHER IN PEACE FOR ONCE?

JAKE
POURED
PAINT IN THE
FISHPOND.

DID
NOT!

I'M LATE
FOR WORK,
AND I DON'T
NEED THIS
RIGHT NOW.
YOU'VE JUST
LOST YOUR
TV TIME FOR
THE REST OF
THE DAY.

NO!

YES!
LOOK AT
WHAT YOU DID.
ALL THE FISH ARE
GOING TO DIE,
NOW.

WHAT'S
WRONG
DEAR?
THE TWINS
ACTING
UP?

GRANNY, I
HAVE TO GET TO MY
MEETING.

WHEN CYAN GETS
HOME, ASK HER TO
MOVE THE FISH OUT OF
THE POND, HOPEFULLY
SHE CAN SAVE A
COUPLE OF THEM.

YOU'RE
SUCH A
TATTLE-
TALE!

NOW
I'M
MAD.

OH
YEAH?
I'M **SO**
SCARED!

I'LL
SHOW
YOU.



THUNK





YOU
ARE **SO**
GOING TO
REGRET
THAT.

"GRANNY, THERE IS
DEFINITELY SOMETHING
SERIOUSLY WRONG
WITH THE TWINS..."

WHY
WON'T
ANYONE
ADMIT
IT?

NOW HONEY,
DON'T YOU WORRY
ABOUT THEM. IT'S ALWAYS
TOUGHER FOR TWINS.
THEY'RE JUST COMPETING
FOR **ATTENTION**. BUT DON'T
WORRY ABOUT THEM,
THEY'RE BOTH ASLEEP
FOR THE NIGHT.

I'M MORE
CONCERNED
ABOUT **YOU**
SWEETHEART. YOU
STILL HAVING
THOSE AWFUL
NIGHTMARES?





YEAH.

AND
THEY'RE
GETTING
WORSE.

"LAST NIGHT
I HAD ONE WHERE
THE SUN AND THE
MOON WERE BOTH
OUT AT THE SAME
TIME, BUT THE SUN
WAS **BLACK**, LIKE
AN ECLIPSE, AND
THE MOON WAS
ALL **RED**."

"AND THERE'S A
BURNING CITY AND
PEOPLE ARE TRYING
TO ESCAPE, BUT
THEY'RE DYING OF
THIRST BECAUSE THE
RIVER HAS TURNED
INTO **BLOOD**."

NOW IT'S
HAPPENING
ON TV. THE
MISSISSIPPI
TURNED TO
BLOOD AND
STUFF. ALL THE
HORRIBLE THINGS
I'VE BEEN
DREAMING
ARE COMING
TRUE.

DON'T
YOU FRET. THE
GOOD LORD WILL
TAKE CARE OF
US ALL.

GO TO
SLEEP NOW
AND THINK ABOUT
SOMETHING **NICE**.
THAT'LL HELP YOU
HAVE GOOD
DREAMS.





Daily Bible

BRaille

"AND I WILL
SHEW WONDERS
IN THE HEAVENS
AND IN THE EARTH,
BLOOD, AND FIRE,
AND PILLARS OF
SMOKE.

"THE SUN
SHALL BE
TURNED INTO
DARKNESS, AND
THE MOON INTO
BLOOD, BEFORE THE
GREAT AND THE
TERRIBLE DAY OF
THE LORD
COME."



OH MY
SWEET
LORD.




LOOK AT
THE **RETARD**. SHE
STILL SLEEPS WITH
A **BINKY**.

THINK
SHE'S
DREAMING
ABOUT
US?



SAD
MAN...

SAD
MAN...

A full-page comic book illustration depicting a chaotic and intense scene in the underworld. A large, dense crowd of various demonic creatures, including skeletons, demons with horns, and winged beings, surrounds a central figure. This central figure is a large, scaly dragon-like creature with glowing yellow eyes and a wide, menacing grin. The scene is filled with swirling green smoke or mist, and bright orange and yellow flames are visible at the bottom. The overall atmosphere is dark, menacing, and fiery.

THE
UNDERWORLD.

TAKE A
GOOD LOOK,
MAMMON! YOU
WANTED THE TRUTH!
YOU WANTED
TO KNOW WHAT
I AM?

WELL
HERE IT IS YOU
SON OF A
BITCH!

SILENCE!
HOW DARE
YOU SPEAK
THE MASTER'S
NAME.



TOUGH
TALK, BUT
I CAN SENSE
YOUR
FEAR.

I'M NOT
WHAT YOU
THOUGHT I WAS---
OR WHAT I EVEN THOUGHT
I WAS--AND THAT SCARES
THE HELL OUT OF YOU--
BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T
PLAN FOR THIS
DID YOU?

DID
YOU!?!



LET'S
END THIS
NOW!

YOU
HAVE ANY
IDEA WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE?

NOT A
CLUE, BUT
I THINK IT'S
ABOUT
TO GET
WORSE.





AND SO IT BEGINS.

HELL HAS SEEN
ENDLESS CONFLICTS
BEFORE, BUT NEVER
ANYTHING LIKE THIS.



CAN YOU SEE
ANYTHING?

NOT
MUCH, THEY'RE
TOO FAR AWAY.
BUT CHRIS IS
STILL DOWN
THERE.



MAYBE
I CAN
HELP.



WHO!
DON'T
SHOOT!



WE HAVE
TO WAIT HERE
UNTIL IT'S OVER.
THEN WE CAN
SNEAK IN
CLOSER.

THE PARCHED
AIR IS FILLED
WITH THE
STENCH OF
BRIMSTONE
AND GORE.



AS THE RENDING
OF DEAD FLESH
IS MIXED WITH
CRIES OF RAGE
AND PAIN, NOISES
OF THE BATTLE
REVERBERATE
THROUGH THE
VAST WASTELAND.



ECHOING IN A
CLUSTER OF SHRILLS
THAT GIVE NO CLUE
AS TO WHO MIGHT
BE GAINING THE
UPPER HAND.



THIS IS
UNBELIEVABLE.



IT APPEARS
SPAWN--I
MEAN SPAWNS
MIGHT
ACTUALLY BE
WINNING.

IS THAT
CHRIS DOWN
THERE?



CHRIS!
CHRIS,
GODDAMMIT--
UP HERE!

HE CAN'T
HEAR YOU,
SAM, IT'S
NO USE.



JESUS
CHRIST, HE'S
WALKING BACK
TOWARDS THEM.
WHAT'S HE
THINKING?!





YOU SEE
THIS MAMMON?
WE'VE DEFEATED
THEM ALL! SO MUCH
FOR YOUR DAMN
INQUISITION.

DID
YOU REALLY
THINK IT
WOULD BE
THAT EASY?
LOOK
AGAIN.

YOU'VE
ONLY FOUGHT
THE LOWLIEST
DEMONS,
RECONSTRUCTED
BY THAMUZ' MAGIC
TO APPEAR IN THE
FORM OF YOUR
ENEMIES.

BUT
YOU'RE--



REAL
ENOUGH.



DON'T
OVERESTIMATE
YOUR IMPORTANCE,
HELLSPAWN. THE END
OF TIMES HAS BEGUN
AND NOT EVEN YOU ARE
POWERFUL ENOUGH
TO STOP IT.

SO
TAKE
YOUR
LEAVE.

AND THE
NEXT TIME WE
MEET YOU'LL SEE
WHO THE TRUE
MASTER OF YOUR
FATE IS.



YOU'RE
TREMBLING,
MY LORD. SURELY
YOU DON'T
FEAR--

QUIET!!
IT WAS YOUR
DEMONS HE
DEFEATED.

YOU SAID
YOU COULD
CONTAIN HIM
UNTIL I MADE THE
PROPER PREPARATIONS,
BUT YOU DIDN'T.
YOU'VE FAILED ME!
I WON'T SOON
FORGET THIS.

IS THAT IT? IS IT OVER?

FOR NOW.

YOU LETTING THEM JUST WALK?

LISTEN, I'VE JUST LITERALLY BEEN TORN APART AND PIECED BACK TOGETHER... I'M IN NO SHAPE TO FINISH THIS... YET.

BUT NEXT TIME--
UNGH--I'LL HAVE HELP ON MY SIDE. RIGHT NOW THEY ALL NEED TO REST.

AA
AEE
AA
GH
H





YOU AGAIN.

SAM, TWITCH-- TAKE THE BOY. I'LL HANDLE THIS.

NO! IT'S OKAY. I KNOW HIM.

I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR EYES, CHRISTOPHER.

DID I DO OKAY?

YES. YOU WERE *PERFECT*. AND BECAUSE OF YOU SPAWN HAS FINALLY DISCOVERED THAT HE'S MUCH MORE THAN THE MERE RESURRECTION OF AL SIMMONS.

WHY DO YOU THINK YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ME?

ANYTHING AT ALL!!

AS THE BOY SAID, WE'VE MET...ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION, AND EVEN BEFORE THAT I'VE WATCHED YOU. THOSE THINGS THAT POURED OUT OF YOU TODAY ARE SOULS-- LOST SOULS.

FOR NOW THEY'VE GONE BACK HOME.

SO DO YOU SPAWN. HE SAID YOU'VE MET BEFORE. HE JUST LOOKED DIFFERENT, THAT'S ALL. HE'S NOT GOING TO HURT US.



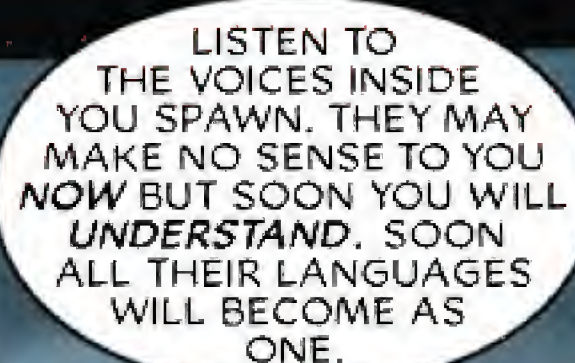
JUST LIKE CHRISTOPHER HAS TO. SO NOW YOU MUST TAKE HIM BACK.



CHERISH HIM. HE IS THE *BEST* PART OF YOU.



HE IS THE *INNOCENCE* YOU LOST.



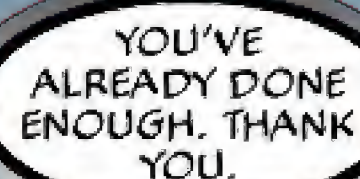
LISTEN TO THE VOICES INSIDE YOU SPAWN. THEY MAY MAKE NO SENSE TO YOU NOW BUT SOON YOU WILL UNDERSTAND. SOON ALL THEIR LANGUAGES WILL BECOME AS ONE.

WAIT.



HE'S GONE. WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

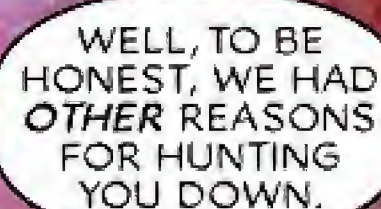
YEAH, CAUSE I'M STARTING TO GET *PISSED* OFF TOO.



YOU'VE ALREADY DONE ENOUGH. THANK YOU.

FOR WHAT?

FOR TAKING CARE OF THE BOY WHEN I COULDN'T.



WELL, TO BE HONEST, WE HAD OTHER REASONS FOR HUNTING YOU DOWN.

SUCH AS?

SUCH AS ALL KINDS OF *CRAZY SHIT* IS HAPPENING AROUND THE WORLD.

WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT KNOW WHY SOME OF IT IS HAPPENING.



YES, THIS IS WANDA BLAKE.



THE TWINS?
WHY IS THERE A PROBLEM?

OF COURSE. I UNDERSTAND.
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.



YOUR CHILDREN ARE EXTREMELY ADVANCED FOR THEIR AGE MRS. BLAKE. REMARKABLY ADVANCED... AND VERY CREATIVE...

SO WHERE'S YOUR CONCERN?



I GAVE THE CHILDREN A PROJECT TO MAKE A MODEL OF THEIR FAVORITE STORYBOOK CHARACTERS. THE TWINS HAVE PUT A LOT OF EFFORT INTO THEIR WORK.

I'D LIKE YOU TO HAVE A LOOK AT SOMETHING.



OH, MY.

JOSHUA CREEK,
TENNESSEE.

OH BILLY BOB,
MY POOR **SWEET** LOVE.
I'M SO SORRY FOR WHAT I
DONE. I SENT YOU OUT ON
THAT WILD STORMY NIGHT. I
TOLD YOU I NEEDED MEDICINE
TO EASE MY MONTHLY
PAINS, BUT IT WAS A LIE
BILLY BOB.

THE TRUTH
IS, MY LOVER
JESSE WAS WAITING.
HE SLIPPED IN THE
BACK DOOR AS SOON
AS YOU DROVE
AWAY.

IF ONLY
I'D KNOWN THAT
DRUNKEN TRUCKER WAS
HEADING DOWN THAT RAIN-
LASHED, WINDSWEEP
HIGHWAY, ON HIS WAY TO
CRUSH YOU INTO SWEET
OBLIVION...

...I NEVER
WOULD HAVE
SENT YOU OUT
DARLIN'.

I
SWEAR
I-

**EEE
EEE
EE**

EMMA-LOU,
YOU KNOW THERE'S
TWO THINGS IN THIS
WORLD I JUST
CAN'T STAND.

WATERED-
DOWN
WHISKEY...



... AND
A TWO-
TIMING
WHORE!



TO BE CONTINUED...

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154



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MANHATTAN.

FZASSHH



ON THE ROOF OF SAM BURKE'S APARTMENT, A DEAD BOY STANDS IN THE RAIN.



IS HE OKAY?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

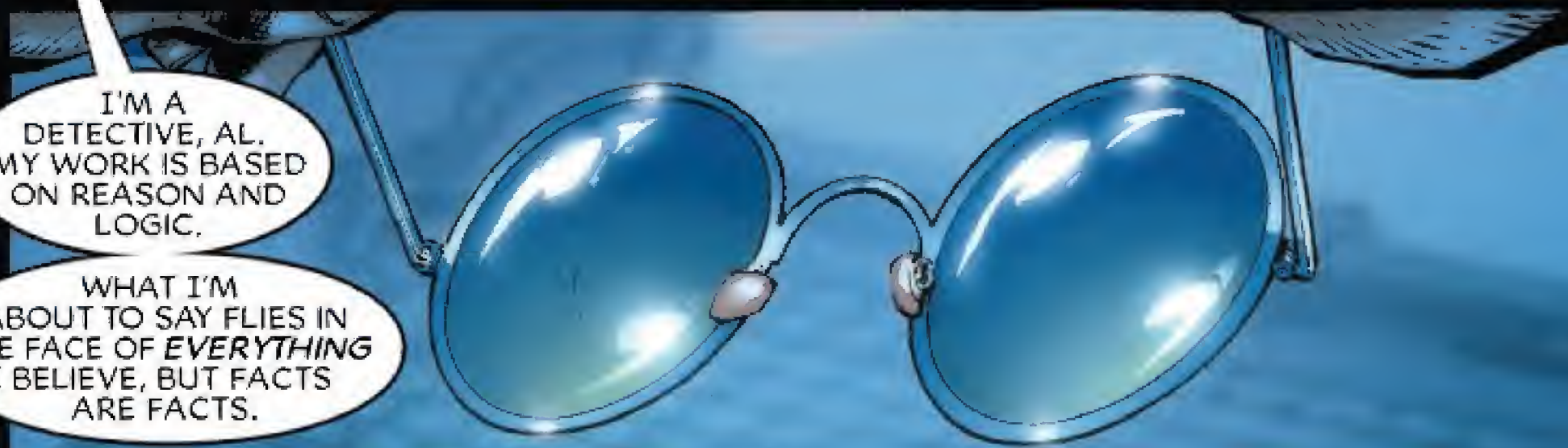
THEY TOLD HIM IF HE WAS GOOD, HE'D GO TO HEAVEN WHEN HE DIED.

I DID SOME TERRIBLE THINGS IN MY LIFE SAM...



...BUT THAT POOR KID...

...WHAT DID HE EVER DO TO DESERVE THIS?




I'M A
DETECTIVE, AL.
MY WORK IS BASED
ON REASON AND
LOGIC.

WHAT I'M
ABOUT TO SAY FLIES IN
THE FACE OF *EVERYTHING*
I BELIEVE, BUT FACTS
ARE FACTS.



I'VE BEEN
TRACKING
THE LIVE NEWS
FEEDS AND THESE
BIZARRE EVENTS
ARE OCCURRING
ALL OVER THE
WORLD.

*WEREWOLVES,
VAMPIRES, DEMONIC
POSSESSION.*



IT'S AS IF MANKIND'S
FEARS AND NIGHTMARES ARE
STEPPING OUT OF THE
COLLECTIVE PSYCHE AND INTO
THE PHYSICAL WORLD.

EVERY CULTURE
HAS A MYTHOLOGICAL
VERSION OF ITS OWN
DESTRUCTION.
ARMAGEDDON,
RAGNAROK, THE END
OF DAYS--



YOU'RE
TELLING ME
THIS IS THE
END OF THE
WORLD?
THAT'S OLD
NEWS.


I PREVENTED
THE APOCALYPSE
BEFORE, I'LL DO
IT AGAIN...

YOU CAN'T BE
EVERYWHERE
AT ONCE, AL.

HE'S RIGHT. IT'S BIGGER
THIS TIME. I CAN FEEL IT
COMING LIKE A TSUNAMI.

I'LL NEED ALL THE
HELP I CAN GET.


SAM.
BRING
CHRIS IN
HERE.



WHAT'S IT LIKE IN THERE, CHRIS? YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TELL ME.

WHAT'S IT LIKE INSIDE MY HEAD?


IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN. IT'S KIND'A CROWDED. YOU HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THERE.




I THINK THEY'VE BEEN IN THERE A LONG TIME...

SINCE MALEBOLGIA FIRST RAISED ME, THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN VOICES, WHISPERING IN THE DARK.

MAN OF MIRACLES SAID I SHOULD LISTEN TO THEM, BUT WHEN I TRY, ALL I HEAR IS NOISE...




SOMETIMES IT SOUNDS LIKE INSECTS, RIGHT NOW IT'S LIKE A CROWD OF LUNATICS, ALL BABBLING IN A DIFFERENT LANGUAGE.



THEY'RE **CONFUSED**. THEY DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE.

THEY'RE LOST IN THE DARK, WAITING TO BE SHOWN THE WAY OUT.



CHRIS, WHEN YOU FOUND ME, YOU BROUGHT THEM OUT. SOMEHOW, YOU SUMMONED THEM.

COULD YOU DO IT AGAIN?

I THINK SO...



...YES.



FOR YEARS, HEAVEN AND HELL HAVE BEEN TRYING TO RECRUIT ME FOR THEIR SICK FEUD.

I THOUGHT MY ONLY CHOICE WAS TO PICK A SIDE OR WALK AWAY.

NOT ANY MORE. I'M NOT GOING TO STAND ASIDE WHILE THEY CARVE UP THE WORLD BETWEEN THEM.

THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT THE PEOPLE THEY HURT... ONLY THE BODY COUNT OF SOULS THEY EACH RACK UP.

WELL, THERE'S A THIRD FORCE IN THIS WAR, NOW.

AND, EVERY TIME THEY TURN AROUND, I'LL BE THERE WAITING FOR THEM.

GIVE ME THE LIST, MAX. WHERE SHOULD I BE GOING?

A LOT OF THESE ARE MINOR EVENTS. LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE DEALING WITH THEM, BUT THERE ARE A COUPLE THAT LOOK LIKE SERIOUS TROUBLE...

MULTIPLE DEATHS IN WEST BENGAL

WE'VE GOT REPORTS OF MASS SLAUGHTER IN NORTHERN INDIA. EYEWITNESSES ARE TALKING ABOUT KALI, THE GODDESS OF DEATH.

BEFORE YOU GET TO THAT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT THIS UNCONFIRMED REPORT FROM TENNESSEE.

APPARENTLY, THE DEAD ARE RISING FROM THEIR GRAVES.

JOSHUA CREEK. TENNESSEE.

OH GOD,
OH GOD,
OH GOD.

EMMA-LOU?
IT'S ME. JESSE.

ARE YOU
IN *THERE*?

OH THANK
CHRIST! THE TOWN'S GONE
CRAZY. SOME KIND'A
MANIACS, HIGH ON SOME
SHIT, BURNIN' AND LOOTIN'
AND KILLIN'...

EMMA-LOU?
ANSWER ME,
DARLIN'.

ARE YOU
OKAY?



JESSE!

WELL
NOW, I
MIGHT'A
KNOWN
YOU'D COME
SNIFFIN'
AROUND.

B-B-
**BILLY-
BOB?!**

IN THE
FLESH.

WHUT'S
LEFT OF
IT...

IT'S A
BITCH BEING
DEAD. CAN'T
EVEN GET
DRUNK...

...AND
LORD
KNOWS,
I'VE BEEN
TRYIN'.

CAN'T
EVEN
TASTE
THE
DAMNED
WHISKY.

I BLAME
YOU FOR THIS,
JESSE. EMMA-LOU
WOULD 'A NEVER
SENT ME OUT THAT
NIGHT I GOT
MYSELF KILLED, IF
IT WASN'T FOR
YOU!

DON'T
BOTHR
DENYIN' IT.
EMMA-LOU
ALREADY
CONFESSED
YOU WAS
JUMPIN' HER
BONES.

UKK-
KUKK-

OH, I'VE
FORGIVEN
HER, ALREADY.
I COULDN'T STAY
MAD WITH MY
SWEET EMMA-
LOU.

NOT
AFTER I
KILLED
HER AN'
ALL.



YOU
ALWAYS
DID HAVE
A TEMPER
ON YA,
HONEY.



HAVE
YOU STILL
GOT THE
HOTS FOR
MY WIFE,
JESSE?

THAT'S
WHY YOU'RE
HERE, ISN'T
IT?



I'M SORRY.
PUH-PLEASE...



IT'S ALL
RIGHT. EMMA-LOU,
WHY DON'TCHA
GIVE'M A LITTLE
KISS.

N-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-!!



MY NAME
IS HIROSHI
KITAMURA.

I DO NOT
REMEMBER
MY LIFE.

I REMEMBER ONLY THAT I
AM SWORN TO PROTECT THE
HONOR OF MY FAMILY...

...AND OF
MY GRAND-
DAUGHTER,
KUMIKO.

FOR MANY
YEARS I
HAVE
WANDERED
THROUGH
THIS
DARKNESS,
FOLLOWING
KUMIKO.

NO MATTER
HOW FAST,
OR SLOWLY
I WALK, I
ALWAYS
REMAIN THE
SAME
DISTANCE
BEHIND HER.

SHE
DOES
NOT
TURN OR
ANSWER
WHEN I
CALL TO
HER.

ALL
THESE
YEARS
AND I
HAVE
NEVER
ONCE
SEEN
HER
FACE.

NOW AT
LAST, THERE
IS LIGHT
IN THE
DARKNESS.

NOW AT LAST
I SHALL WAKE
FROM THIS
NIGHTMARE...



AAARRGH!!



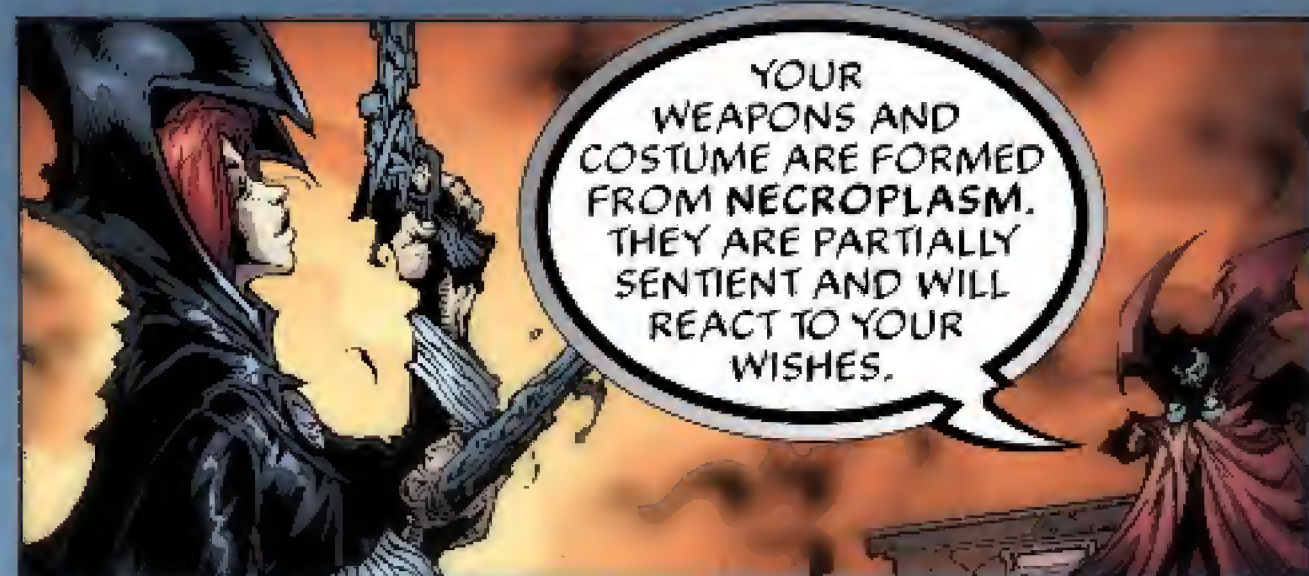
AN OLD MAN
AND A YOUNG
GIRL? DID CHRIS
GET IT RIGHT?

KUMIKO!
WHAT
HAPPENED?
WHERE ARE
WE?

THE GAME!
THIS IS THE
ONE I'VE BEEN
TRAINING FOR
ISN'T IT?

A GAME? ALL RIGHT.
IF THAT'S THE WAY
SHE WANTS IT...

JUST
BE SURE
YOU WIN IT,
GIRL. THERE
WON'T BE ANY
RE-PLAYS
HERE.



YOUR
WEAPONS AND
COSTUME ARE FORMED
FROM NECROPLASM.
THEY ARE PARTIALLY
SENTIENT AND WILL
REACT TO YOUR
WISHES.



SO WHO
DO I HAVE TO
KILL? WHAT ARE
THE RULES?

NO
RULES.
JUST
WIN!



LOOK
DOWN
THERE.
THAT'S WHAT
YOU HAVE
TO KILL.

EVERY
LAST
ONE OF
THEM.



DOES SHE KNOW? DOES SHE HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT SHE IS?

I HAVE TO LEAVE YOU NOW. I'M NEEDED ELSEWHERE.

CAN YOU DEAL WITH THIS?

HA! MY FIGHTING TECHNIQUE IS FLAWLESS.

WITH WEAPONS LIKE THESE, I'LL WIPE THE FLOOR WITH THOSE WALKING CORPSES.

MY HIGH SCORE ON ZOMBIE WIPEOUT HAS NEVER BEEN EQUALLED. IN THE VIDEO ARCADES OF TOKYO THEY CALL ME THE SLAYER!

KUMIKO! THIS IS NOT WHAT YOU THINK! THIS IS TOO DANGEROUS!

THEN STAY OUT OF IT OLD MAN!

KUMIKO!


SHE DOESN'T HESITATE. SHE'S A BORN WARRIOR. CHRIS WAS RIGHT TO SUMMON HER.

BUT THE OLD MAN...

DON'T WORRY, AL. I CAN'T SEE THEM BUT I KNOW...

KUMIKO, WAIT FOR ME!


SOMETIMES, YOU JUST HAVE TO HAVE FAITH...



SHE ACTS FROM PURE INSTINCT, NEVER STOPPING TO ASK HERSELF HOW SHE GOT TO THIS PLACE.

ALL SHE KNOWS IS THAT SHE HAS BEEN ASLEEP FOR A VERY LONG TIME, AND IT FEELS GOOD TO BE ALIVE...

BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!




KUMIKO, I'M HERE.




FIVE SHOTS, FIVE PERFECT KILLS!

I DON'T NEED YOU AND YOUR RIDICULOUS SWORD, OLD MAN.



THIS KATANA HAS BEEN IN OUR FAMILY FOR GENERATIONS.

IT ONCE BELONGED TO THE GREAT WARRIOR, ODA NOBUNAGA HIMSELF.




SPARE ME THE STORY. YOU'VE TOLD ME A THOUSAND TIMES.




THEY BATTLE, SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER, THE SEVENTY-FIVE-YEAR-OLD FIGHTS WITH THE ENERGY OF A YOUNG MAN, EMPLOYING THE TECHNIQUES HE HAS PRACTICED FOR A LIFETIME.

THIS IS WHAT HIROSHI HAS DREAMED OF. THE ANCIENT WAY OF BUSHIDO. THE GLORY. THE HONOR OF COMBAT.



AND YET, THERE IS NO PLEASURE IN IT. THESE SHAMBLING CORPSES ARE NOT WORTHY OPPONENTS.




GRANDFATHER! OVER THERE! THEY'RE TRYING TO GET INTO THAT CHURCH.

THERE MUST BE LIVING SURVIVORS INSIDE!



DELIVER US FROM OUR ENEMIES, OH LORD: DEFEND US FROM THEM THAT RISE UP AGAINST US.

DELIVER US FROM THE WORKERS OF INIQUITY, AND SAVE US FROM BLOODY MEN.

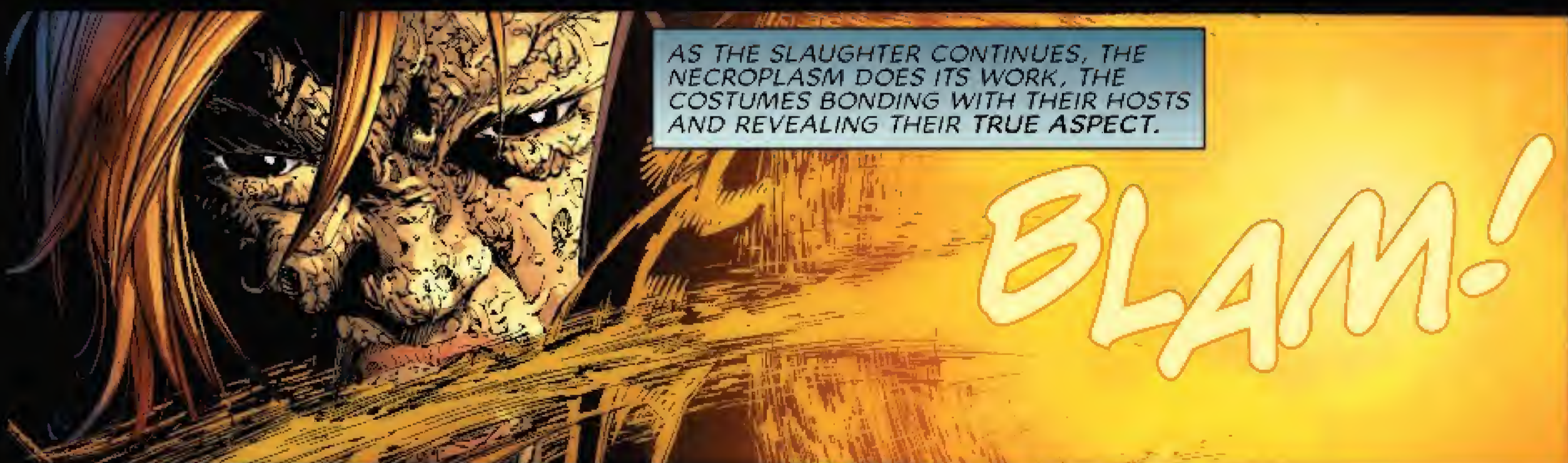


KUMIKO'S PISTOLS GROW HOT IN HER HANDS, FIRING A NEVER-ENDING STREAM OF NECROPLASMIC BULLETS.

BUT STILL THEY COME, AS IF ALL THE DEAD OF THE EARTH WERE SWARMING INTO JOSHUA CREEK.



THE AIR IS FILLED WITH THE SICKENING SOUND OF ROTTED FLESH, RIPPED FROM DESICCATED BONES.



AS THE SLAUGHTER CONTINUES, THE NECROPLASM DOES ITS WORK, THE COSTUMES BONDING WITH THEIR HOSTS AND REVEALING THEIR TRUE ASPECT.

BLAM!



FOR A MOMENT, KUMIKO PAUSES AND CATCHES A GLIMPSE OF HER GRAND-FATHER'S FACE.



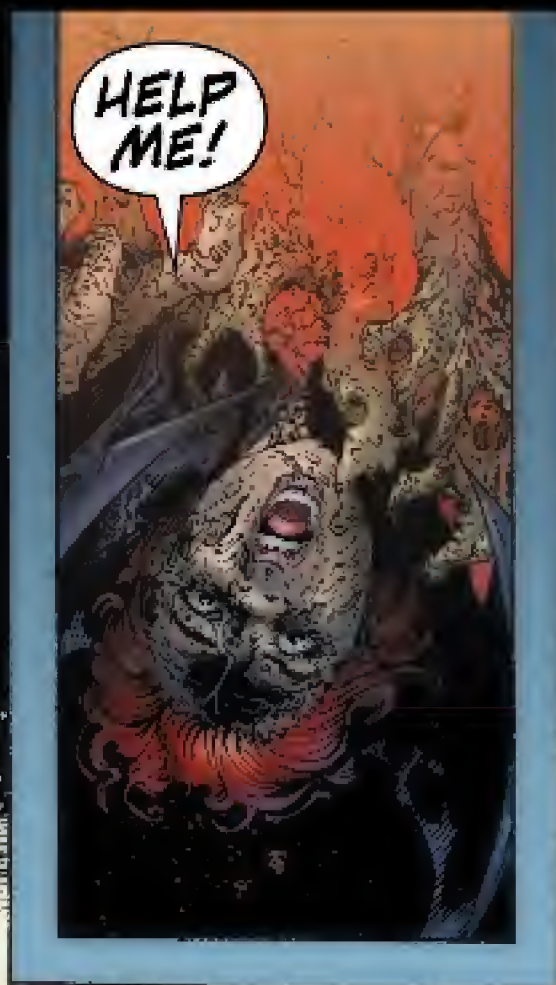
IN THAT MOMENT SHE IS NO LONGER THE SLAYER, AND THIS IS NO LONGER A GAME.

NO!



SHE IS A TERRIFIED YOUNG GIRL, WAKING TO FIND THAT THE WORLD HAS TURNED INTO A NIGHTMARE.

NOOOO!



HELP ME!

HAI-YAAAA
AH

HE SWORE TO PROTECT HER, BUT AS HE LOOKS DOWN AT KUMIKO, HE KNOWS THAT HE HAS ALREADY FAILED...



THE STENCH OF PUTREFACTION HANGS HEAVY IN THE AIR, AND IT COMES NOT ONLY FROM THESE MONSTROUS ANIMATED CORPSES...

...BUT ALSO FROM KUMIKO'S OWN DEAD FLESH.

N-N-NUH



WE CAN TAKE SHELTER IN THAT HOUSE.



AAAAHH!



IT'S ALL
RIGHT NOW
KUMIKO-
CHAN.

NO,
IT'S NOT.
HOW CAN
IT BE?



LOOK AT US
GRANDFATHER!

WE'RE
DEAD!

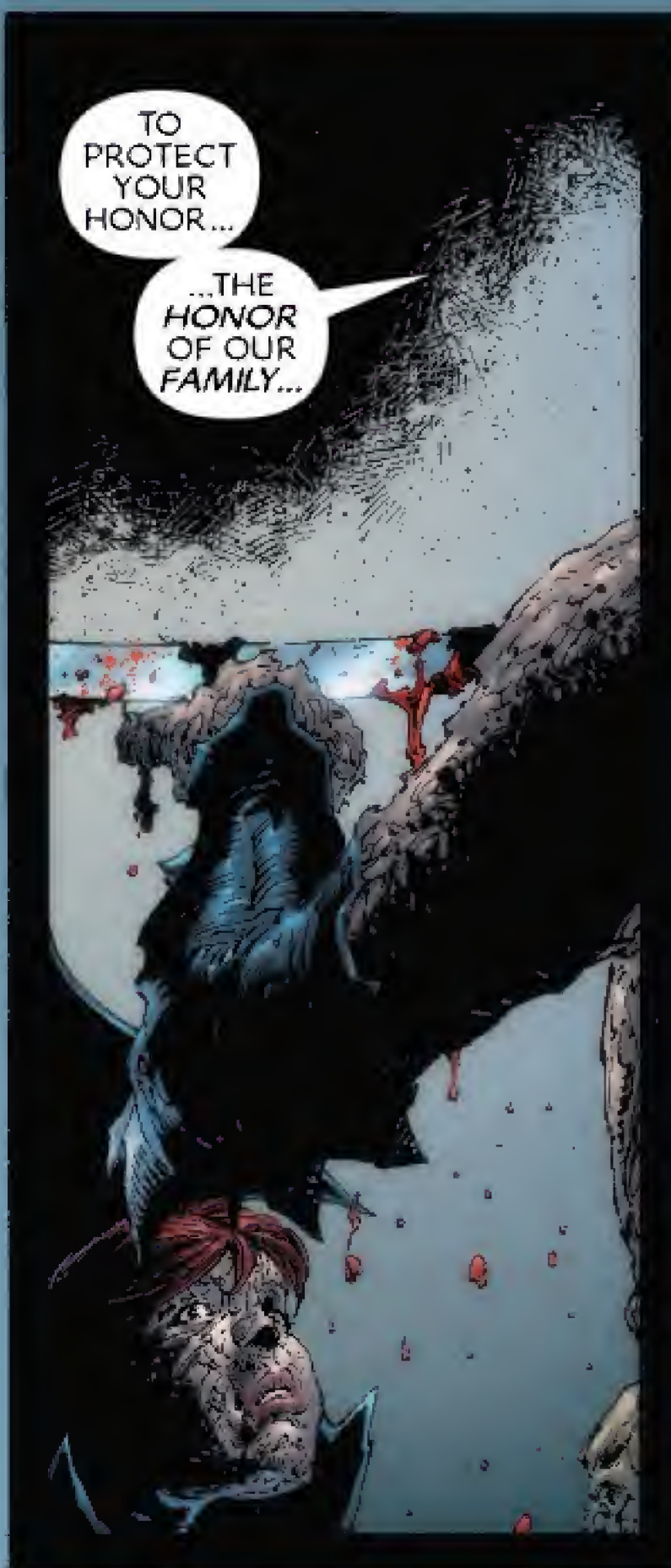
WE'RE
DEAD
TOO!



I-I
REMEMBER
NOW.

I
FOLLOWED
YOU.

I TOOK
MY
KATANA
AND I
FOLLOWED
YOU.



TO
PROTECT
YOUR
HONOR...

...THE
HONOR
OF OUR
FAMILY...

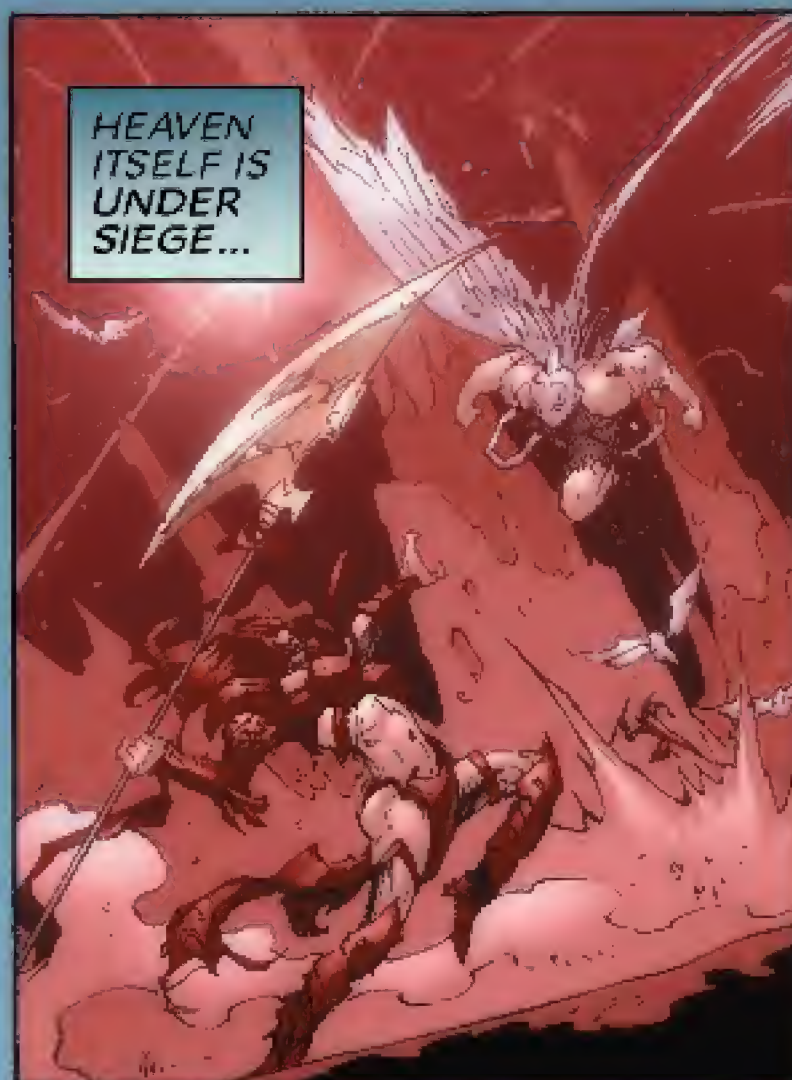


OH
KUMIKO...

...I
REMEMBER...



...I
KILLED
YOU...



SISTERS,
THE ENEMY
IS AT THE
GATE.

OUR FORCES
CANNOT STAND
AGAINST THE
FORGOTTEN.

SOON
THE WALLS
WILL BE
BREACHED AND
ALL CREATION
WILL KNOW THE
TRUTH...

...THAT
GOD IS
NO LONGER
WITH US. WE
HAVE NO
LEADER.

NEVER
FEAR,
SISTERS.
YOU STILL
HAVE
ME.

THESE ARE
DESPERATE
TIMES.

IT
APPEARS
THAT I AM
YOUR ONLY
HOPE...

YOU!
WHAT
LUNATIC
SET YOU
FREE?

IF THE
FORGOTTEN
WANT TO TAKE THE
THRONE OF HEAVEN,
THEY'LL HAVE TO
COME THROUGH
ME...

ZERA,
QUEEN OF THE
SERAPHIM.



TO BE
CONTINUED



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WHO
RELEASED
HER?

WE
THREE ARE
THE ONLY ONES
WHO HAVE
ACCESS TO
ZERA.

I
FREED
HER.

THE
FORGOTTEN
ARE AT OUR GATES.
HEAVEN'S FORCES
HAVE NEVER BEEN
WEAKER.

WE
NEED
ZERA.

YOU HAD
NO RIGHT TO
MAKE THAT
DECISION.

THE LORD
GOD HIMSELF
IMPRISONED
HER.

BUT IT WAS NOT
INTENDED AS A
PUNISHMENT.
ZERA HAS ALWAYS
BEEN LOYAL.

SHE MAY BE LOYAL,
BUT FOR TEN
THOUSAND YEARS
GOD HAS KEPT HER
INCARCERATED IN
THE DEEPEST, MOST
IMPENETRABLE
CHAMBER IN THIS
REALM.

YOU KNOW THE
REASON, SISTER.
ZERA IS A SERAPH
LIKE US, BUT SHE IS
ALSO ONE OF THE
MOST POWERFUL
CREATURES IN THE
UNIVERSE...

...AND SHE
IS UTTERLY
INSANE...



THAT IS THE SOURCE OF HER POWER. IN BATTLE, HER MADNESS MANIFESTS ITSELF IN THE FORM OF HER AVATAR. A MINDLESS, RAGING BEAST OF WAR.

I WAS RIGHT TO RELEASE HER. ZERA WILL LEAD OUR FORCES TO VICTORY. SHE WILL SAVE US FROM THE FORGOTTEN.



YOU MAY BE RIGHT, SISTER.

BUT WHO WILL SAVE US FROM ZERA?

BENGAL, NORTHERN INDIA.

BEEN WALKING FOR HOURS. EVERY VILLAGE WE PASS THROUGH IS DESERTED. WHATEVER'S TAKEN THESE PEOPLE IS CLOSE.

I CAN SMELL DEATH ON THE AIR.

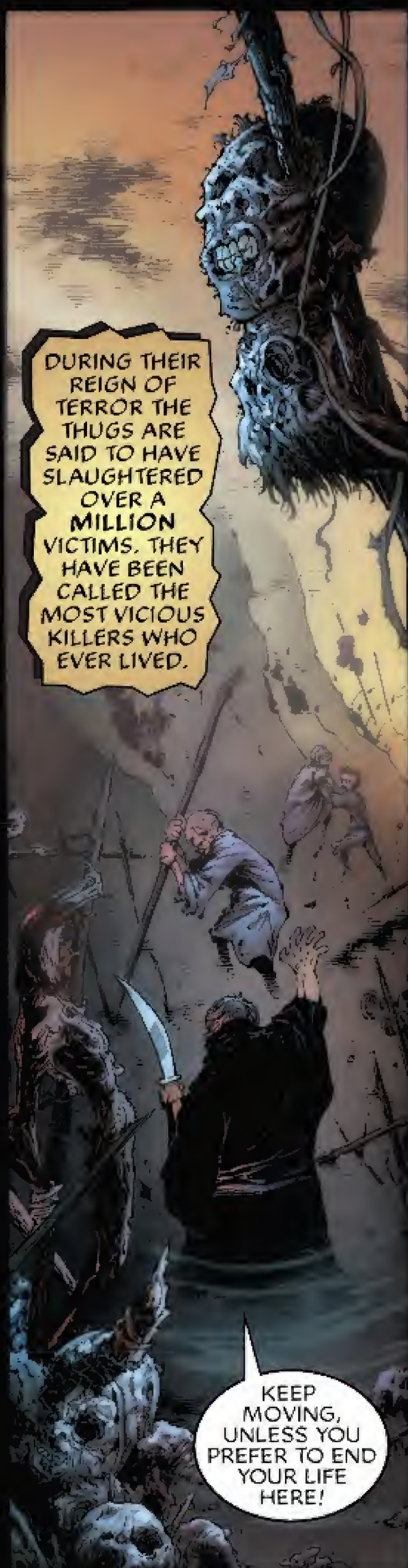
A FEW SURVIVORS CAME DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAINS, BABBLING ABOUT SILENT KILLERS DRESSED IN BLACK.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AL? WHY HAVE WE STOPPED?

THEY SAY THE CULT OF THUGGEE HAS RETURNED. THE FOLLOWERS OF KALI--GODDESS OF DEATH.

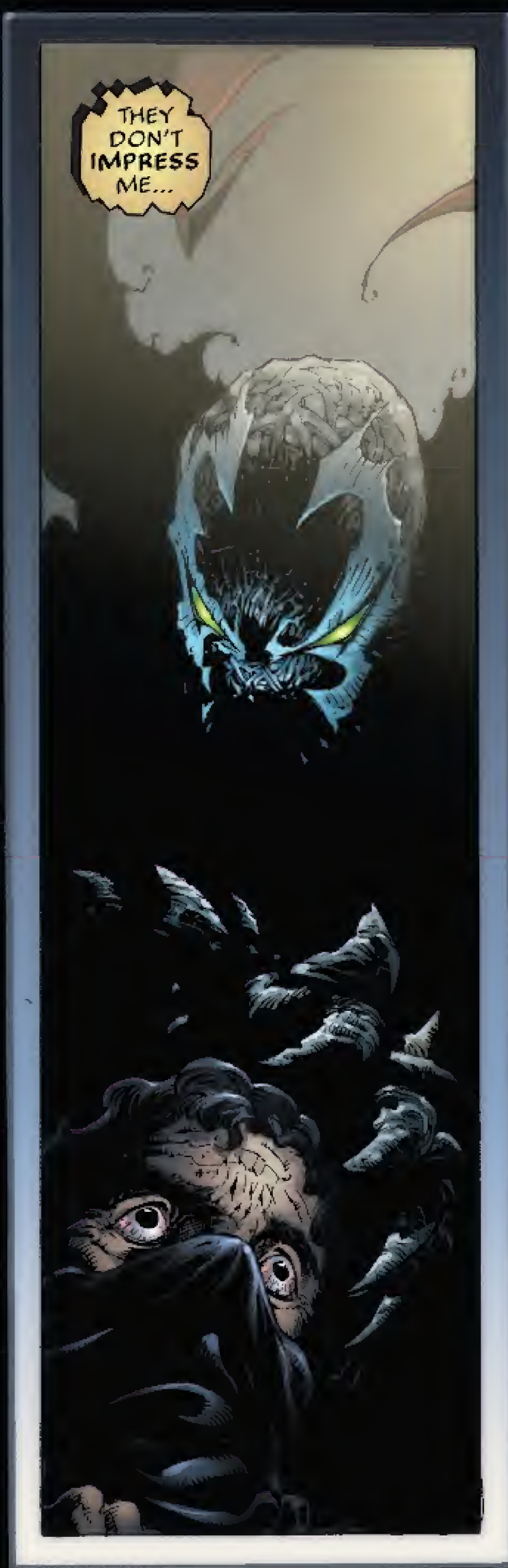
I THINK WE'VE FOUND THE MISSING VILLAGERS.





DURING THEIR REIGN OF TERROR THE THUGS ARE SAID TO HAVE SLAUGHTERED OVER A MILLION VICTIMS. THEY HAVE BEEN CALLED THE MOST VICIOUS KILLERS WHO EVER LIVED.

KEEP MOVING, UNLESS YOU PREFER TO END YOUR LIFE HERE!



THEY DON'T IMPRESS ME...



AAAKK!!

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? WHY ARE YOU KILLING THESE PEOPLE?



THEY ARE SACRIFICES TO OUR MOTHER, KALI.

SHE HAS RETURNED TO RID THIS WORLD OF EVIL. SHE WILL SEND YOU AND YOUR KIND BACK TO HELL!

REALLY?



THEN I'LL
SEE YOU
THERE!



I SEE YOU
HAVEN'T YET
LEARNED THE
VALUE OF
MERCY.

MAN OF
MIRACLES.
KNEW HE'D
SHOW UP.

ARE YOU
HERE TO GIVE ME
ANOTHER LECTURE?
WHAT WAS IT
LAST TIME?

'LISTEN
TO THE
VOICES...'



AND YOU
HAVE **LISTENED.**
I TOLD YOU THEIR
LANGUAGES
WOULD BECOME
AS ONE.

THE
THUG...
YOU
SPOKE
TO HIM
AL.

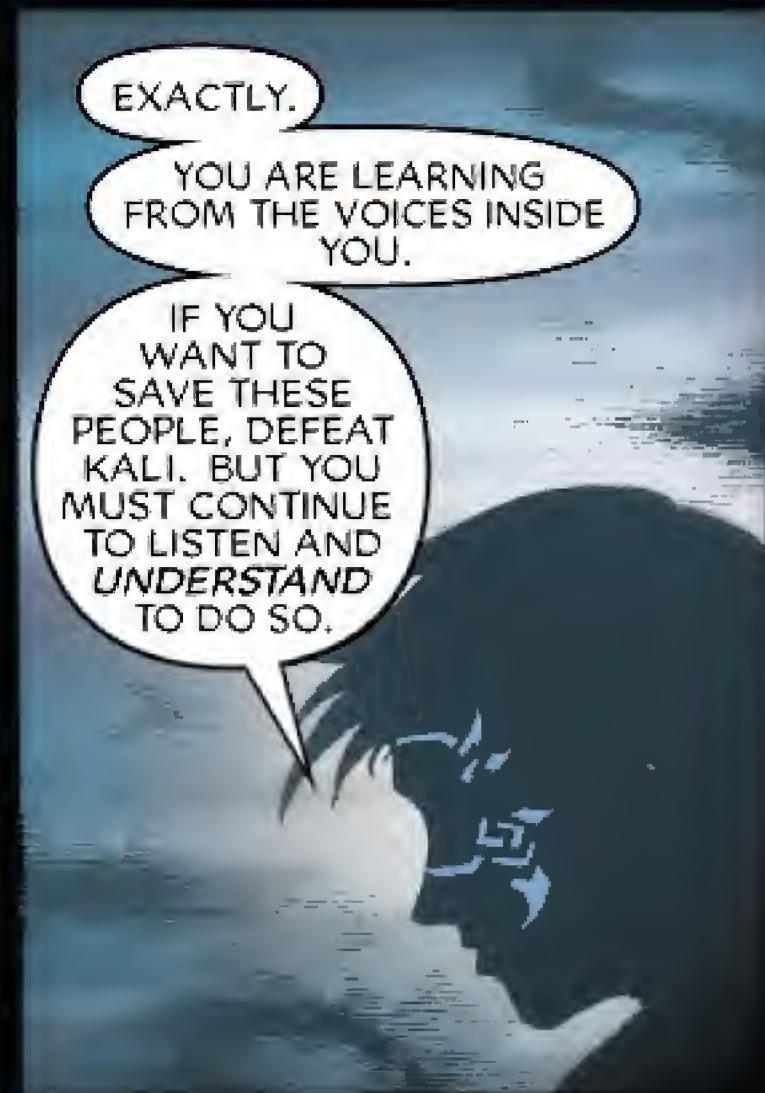


SO?



HE WAS
SPEAKING A
LOCAL DIALECT.
AN OBSCURE
FORM OF
URDU.

BUT I
**UNDER-
STOOD**
HIM...



EXACTLY.

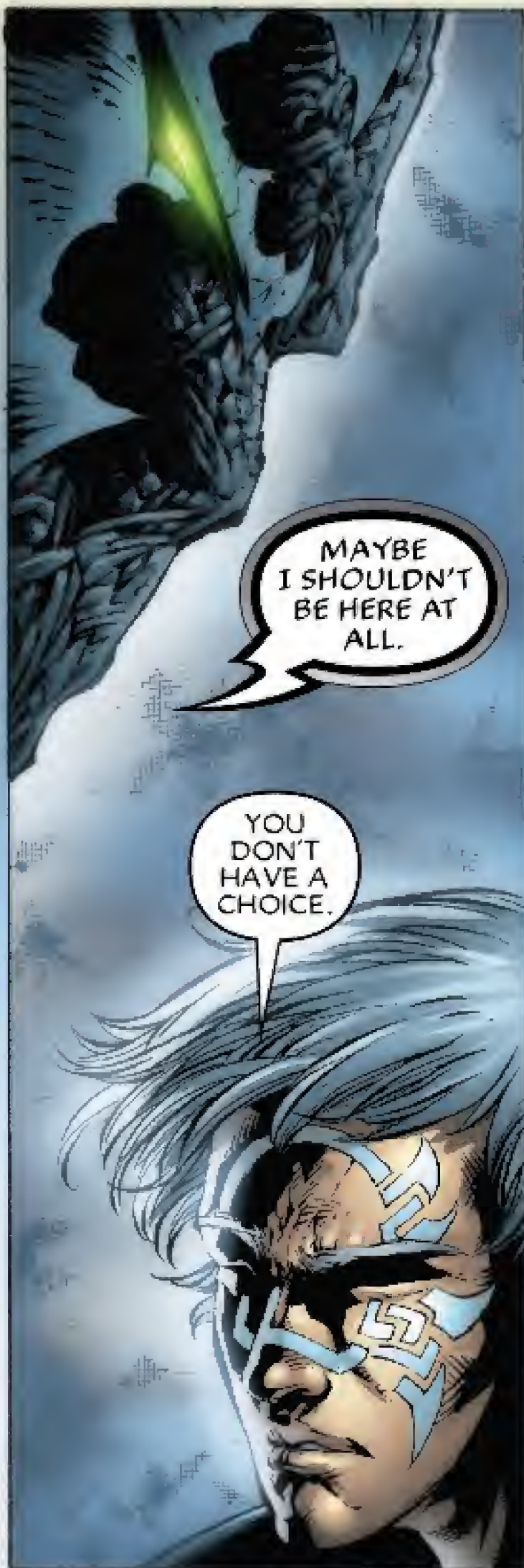
YOU ARE LEARNING
FROM THE VOICES INSIDE
YOU.

IF YOU
WANT TO
SAVE THESE
PEOPLE, DEFEAT
KALI. BUT YOU
MUST CONTINUE
TO LISTEN AND
UNDERSTAND
TO DO SO.



LOOK AROUND YOU! THIS IS THE GODDESS OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

YOU EXPECT ME TO DISCUSS HER **ANGER MANAGEMENT** ISSUES?!



MAYBE I SHOULDN'T BE HERE AT ALL.

YOU DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.



I ALWAYS HAVE A CHOICE.

I REFUSED TO BE RULED BY HEAVEN OR HELL...

I'LL BE **DAMNED** IF I'LL BE TOLD WHAT TO DO BY YOU!

SO WHAT *WILL* YOU DO? SKULK IN YOUR ALLEYS WHILE THE WORLD IS TORN APART?

THE APOCALYPSE WILL DESTROY EVERYTHING. THERE WILL BE NO MORE ALLEYS. NO MORE CITIES.

NO MORE HUMAN RACE.

EVERYONE WILL DIE. WANDA, CYAN, EVERYONE...



YOU'RE NOT DOING THIS FOR ME, AL.

THERE ARE PEOPLE YOU STILL CARE ABOUT.

DO IT FOR THEM.



YOU'LL NEED HELP TO DEFEAT KALI.

CHRIS KNOWS WHAT TO DO.



WE'LL MEET AGAIN SOON.



I DON'T KNOW. I JUST KNOW I FEEL SAFE WHEN HE'S AROUND.

WHO THE **HELL** DOES HE THINK HE IS?



AL... I HAVE TO GO INSIDE NOW.

YOU'RE SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING?

I THINK SO.



UNNNNGGGGGHHH





MY NAME IS AMAL SURENDRA. THIS IS MY WIFE, SHANTI.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE?

YES, THIS IS... INSIDE SPAWN'S HEAD I GUESS...



THIS IS THE *PRETAS* REALM. THE REALM OF HUNGRY GHOSTS.

THAT'S HINDU, RIGHT?

I'M...MY MOTHER'S BAPTIST.



IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT NAME YOU GIVE TO YOUR RELIGION. TRUTH IS TRUTH.



WE DIED... LEFT THE WORLD OF MORTAL MEN...OUR KARMA HAS BROUGHT US HERE...

WE WERE TOO ATTACHED TO WORLDLY THINGS, SO WE MUST REMAIN HERE, WHERE HUNGER AND THIRST CAN NEVER BE SATISFIED, UNTIL WE LEARN TO FREE OURSELVES FROM OUR DESIRES AND POSSESSIONS.

BUT YOU DON'T HAVE ANY-



WE HAVE **ONE** THING...



SO GET RID OF IT, THROW IT AWAY...

NO!



IT IS VERY PRECIOUS TO US. WE ARE NOT READY...

LOOK. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT HUNGRY GHOSTS, BUT I DO KNOW YOU'RE **NEEDED** IN THE REAL WORLD...

RIGHT-



WHERE ARE WE?

IS THIS HELL?

THIS IS BENGAL. THE MOUNTAINS NORTH OF BALLAVPUR.



WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

DID YOU DO THIS?

THESE PEOPLE WERE KILLED BY FOLLOWERS OF KALI.

I'M HERE TO END THIS.



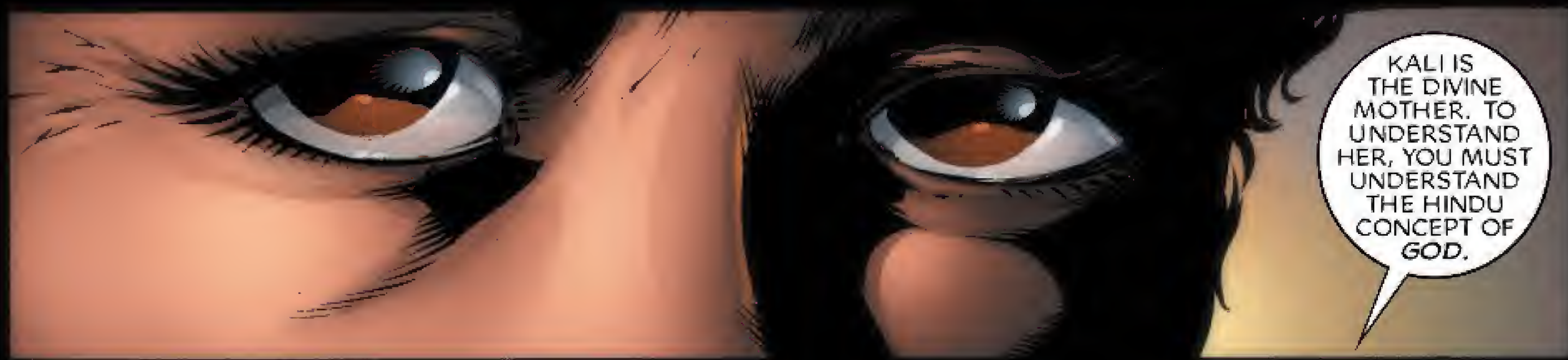
YOU'RE SPAWN. CHRISTOPHER SAID YOU NEED OUR HELP.

TELL ME ABOUT KALI.



HOW CAN WE TRUST HIM. LOOK AT HIM!

I TRUST HIM. BESIDES, WHAT HARM CAN IT DO TO ENLIGHTEN HIM?



KALI IS THE DIVINE MOTHER. TO UNDERSTAND HER, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THE HINDU CONCEPT OF GOD.



OUR RELIGION IS BASED UPON A JOURNEY THROUGH MANY CYCLES OF *DEATH AND RE-BIRTH*, TO REACH THE STATE OF NIRVANA, WHERE WE TRANSCEND OUR PHYSICAL BODIES AND ACHIEVE SPIRITUAL PERFECTION.



WE ARE GUIDED BY THE *VEDAS*, BOOKS OF WISDOM WHICH CONTAIN LEGENDS OF THE GODS.



ACCORDING TO THESE LEGENDS THE GODS CREATED KALI OUT OF PURE LIGHT TO BATTLE MAHISHASURA AND HIS ARMY OF DEMONS.

KALI DESTROYED THE DEMONIC ARMY, SLASHING THEM TO PIECES WITH HER SWORD, *TEARING THEIR HEADS OFF* WITH HER TEETH.



FINALLY HER HUSBAND *SHIVA* LAY DOWN AMONG THE DEAD, AND WHEN SHE SAW HIS NAKED BODY BENEATH HER FEET, KALI WAS OVERCOME WITH SHAME AND THE DESTRUCTION WAS BROUGHT TO AN END.

EVENTUALLY THE LAND WAS COVERED WITH MOUNDS OF CARCASSES. THE DEMONS WERE DEFEATED, BUT KALI WAS INTOXICATED WITH *DEATH*. SHE COULDN'T STOP TEARING AT THE CORPSES AND DRINKING THEIR BLOOD.



BUT YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND, THIS STORY IS AN *ALLEGORY*, REPRESENTING THE ETERNAL BATTLE BETWEEN THE CREATIVE AND DESTRUCTIVE SIDES OF OUR NATURE. IT'S NOT INTENDED AS LITERAL TRUTH.

KALI IS A MYTH.



MAYBE YOU SHOULD TELL HER THAT.



FOOLISH
DEMON! YOU'VE
SAVED ME THE TROUBLE
OF HUNTING YOU
DOWN.

YOU'VE BEEN
MISINFORMED.
I'M NOT A DEMON.
I'M HERE TO END
YOUR REIGN OF
TERROR BEFORE IT
BEGINS!



TERROR?
I AM A FORCE
FOR LIFE, WHAT I
KILL IS REBORN,
BUT YOU...



...YOU
ARE THE VOID.
YOU *CONSUME*
THOSE YOU
KILL.



AND
NOW I
SHALL
CONSUME
YOU!



JOSHUA CREEK, TENNESSEE.



THERE
AREN'T SO
MANY OF THEM.
WE SHOULD
GO OUT THERE
AND *FINISH*
THEM OFF.

WHY?
WE'RE NO
DIFFERENT
THAN THOSE
ZOMBIES.

WE'RE
DEAD
TOO.



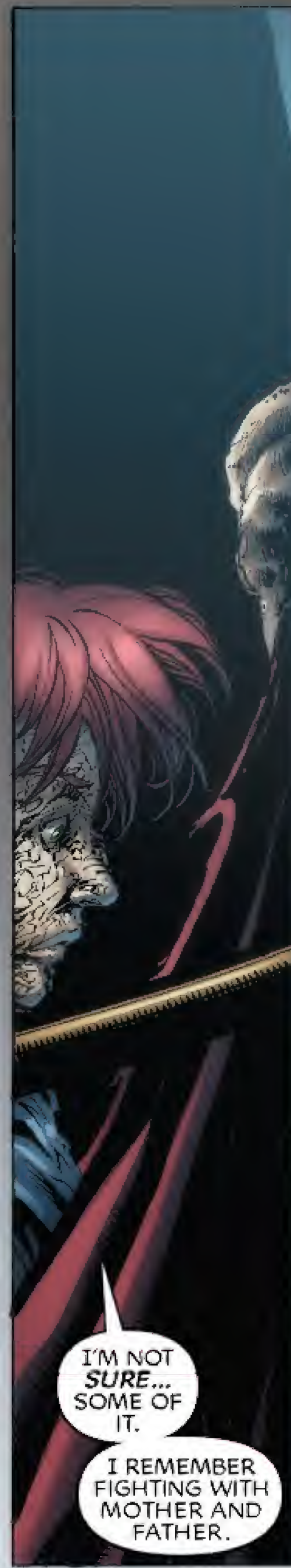
WE
DON'T
BELONG
HERE.

WE WERE
BROUGHT
BACK FOR A
PURPOSE,
KUMIKO. OUR
LIVES WERE
ENDED TOO
SOON.



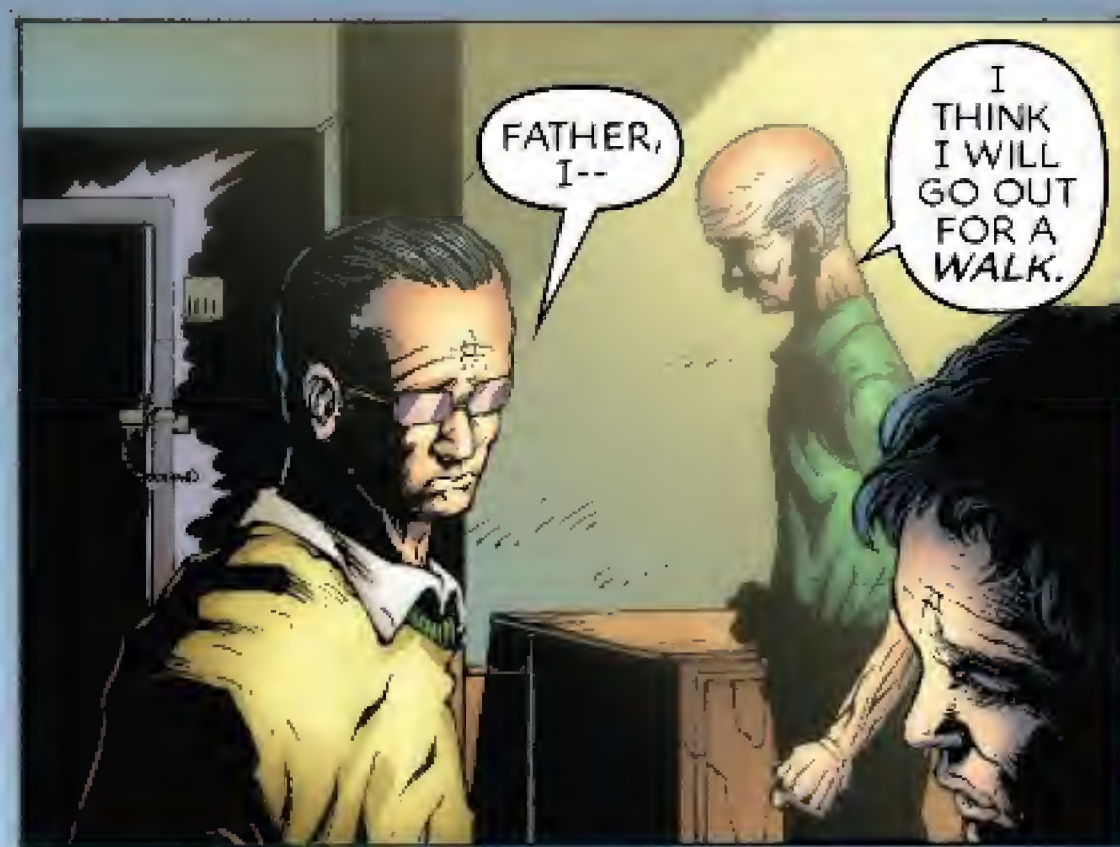
GRAND-
FATHER,
WHAT DID
YOU MEAN
WHEN YOU
SAID YOU
KILLED
ME?

YOU DON'T
REMEMBER?



I'M NOT
SURE...
SOME OF
IT.

I REMEMBER
FIGHTING WITH
MOTHER AND
FATHER.





I KNEW
WHERE
YOU
HAD
GONE.



I HAD BEEN
FOLLOWING YOU
FOR WEEKS.



I KNEW ABOUT
THE DRUGS...



...AND
I KNEW
HOW
YOU
PAID
FOR
THEM.



IT WAS FOOLISH.
I KNOW THAT
NOW. I WAS
JUST A RETIRED
MANAGER OF A
SMALL PRINTING
HOUSE. BUT OUR
ANCESTORS
WERE SAMURAI.

I THOUGHT I
COULD SAVE
YOU AND
RESTORE THE
HONOR OF
OUR FAMILY.

GENJI,
SEE WHO'S
AT THE
DOOR.



WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?

I HAVE
COME FOR
KUMIKO.



HA HA.
ARE YOU SURE
YOU HAVE THE
ENERGY, OLD
MAN?

WE
WOULDN'T
WANT YOU TO
HAVE A HEART
ATTACK AND
DIE ON US.

YOU
THINK YOU
ARE A BIG
MAN.

YOU
ARE
NOT.



YOU ARE
VERY
SMALL.

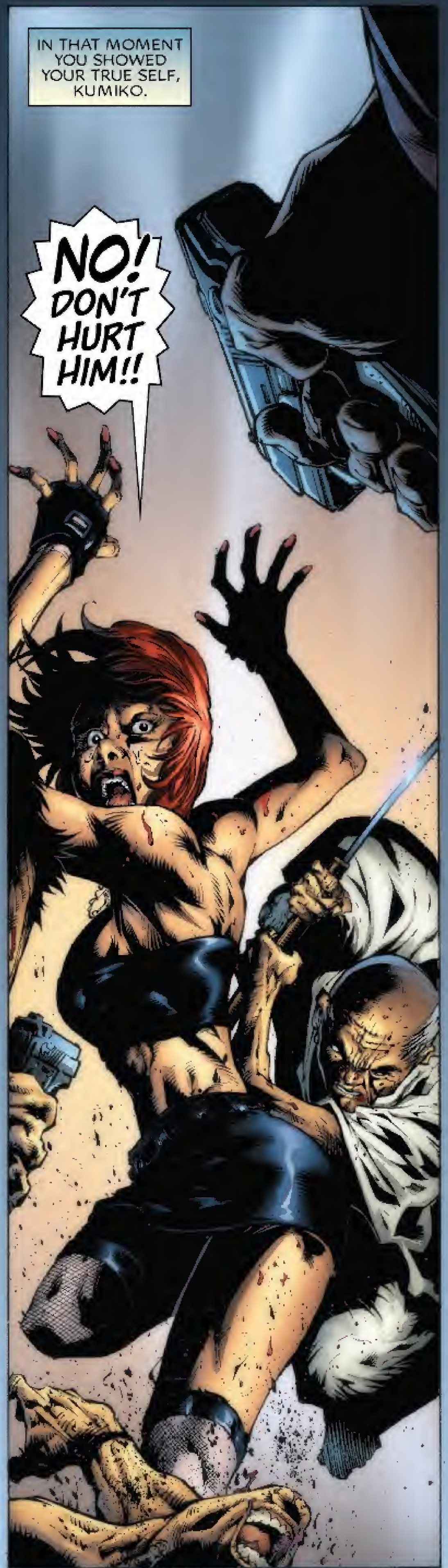


HAI-YAAH!

AKK-



KILL
HIM!



IN THAT MOMENT
YOU SHOWED
YOUR TRUE SELF,
KUMIKO.

NO!
DON'T
HURT
HIM!!



I CAME TO
RESCUE YOU.
BUT IT WAS
YOU WHO
GAVE YOUR
LIFE TRYING
TO SAVE ME.



I REMEMBER.

I DESPISED
YOU...MY
PARENTS...I WAS
SO SELFISH...

I THOUGHT
BEING YOUNG WAS
EVERYTHING.

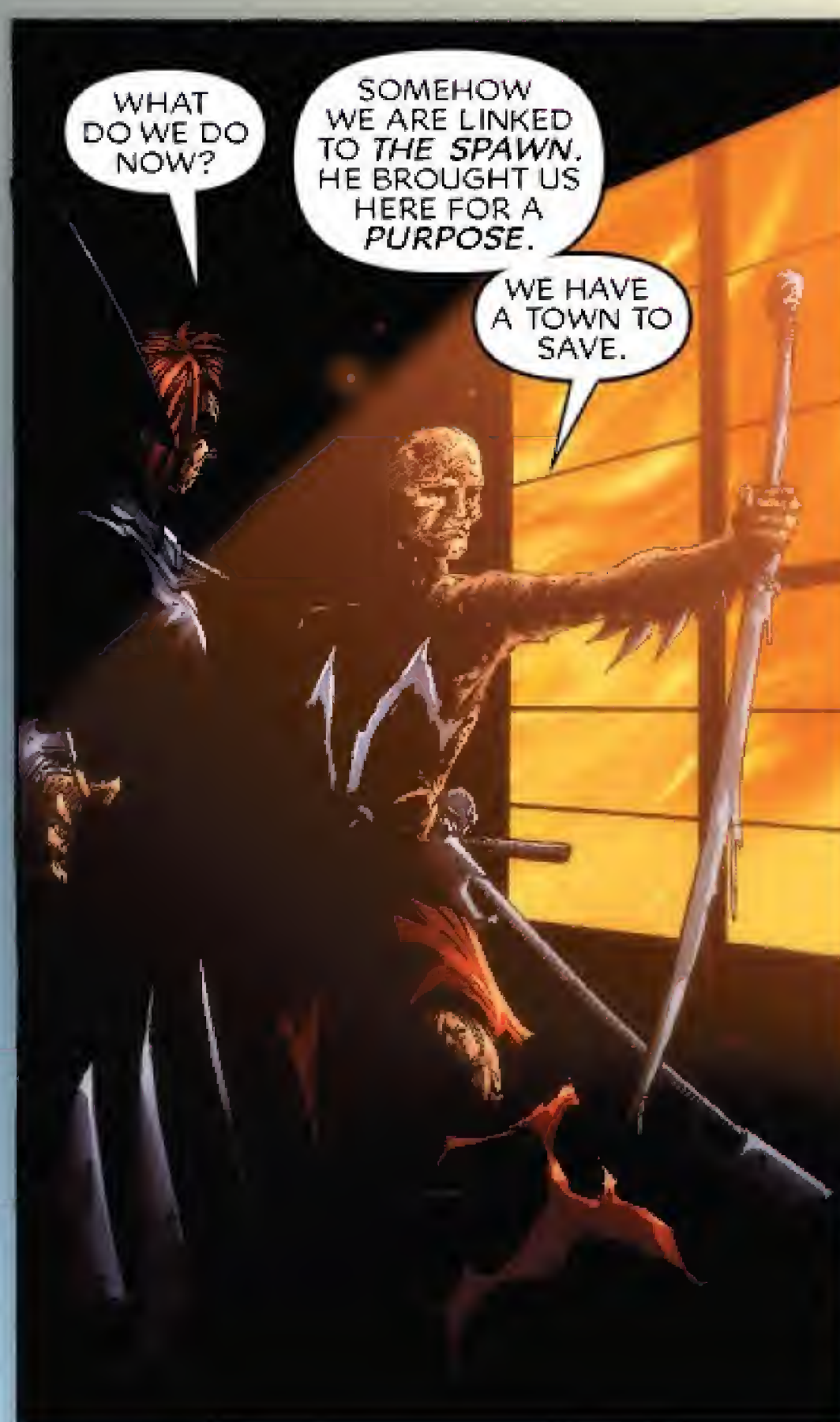


I'M SO
SORRY,
GRAND-
FATHER.



I SHOULD
HAVE TRIED TO KNOW
YOU BETTER.

I
APOLOGIZE
TO YOU
KUMIKO-
CHAN.



WHAT
DO WE DO
NOW?


SOMEHOW
WE ARE LINKED
TO *THE SPAWN*.
HE BROUGHT US
HERE FOR A
PURPOSE.

WE HAVE
A TOWN TO
SAVE.



I NEED
NEW
WEAPONS.

YOUR
COSTUME--
IT'S MAKING
NEW GUNS
FOR YOU!



NOT GUNS,
GRANDFATHER.

SOME-
THING
MUCH
BETTER!



LET'S GO
KILL SOME
ZOMBIES!



RUMORS COMING OUT OF JOSHUA CREEK, TENNESSEE, THAT THE TOWN WAS OVERRUN BY ANIMATED CORPSES, ARE BEING CONTESTED BY STATE POLICE, WHO INSIST THAT THE VIOLENCE WAS CAUSED BY JUVENILE GANGS, HIGH ON DRUGS.

SURVIVORS HAVE SPOKEN OF BEING RESCUED BY TWO SWORD-WIELDING COSTUMED HEROES.



THIS WAS THE SCENE IN DOWNTOWN JOSHUA CREEK LAST NIGHT, AS CAPTURED BY SECURITY CAMERAS.

WHERE DID THOSE TWO SPOILSPORTS COME FROM?

TOLDYA ZOMBIES WERE LAME.

SQUEEE!

YEAH WELL, YOUR KALI THING DIDN'T EVEN MAKE TONIGHT'S NEWS.



BEAT ON THE BRAT, BEAT ON THE BRAT...



I TOLD HIM
HE'D BE
SORRY.



TO BE CONTINUED...

SPAWN




PHILIP
TANOS
DANNY
6

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GIVE ME
THE BAT,
SWEETHEART.

WILL
YOU DO
THAT FOR
ME?

SURE.
I'M FINISHED
WITH IT.

I JUST
WANTED
TO *TEACH*
JAKIE-POO A
LESSON.

SHE KNEW IT
WOULD COME TO
THIS. SHE NEVER
PUT IT INTO WORDS.
BUT SHE ALWAYS
KNEW...



SHOULD I GET THE CARPET CLEANER?

JAKE?

OH GOD, JAKIE...

IT BEGAN FOUR YEARS AGO. THE NIGHT OF THE STORM, WHEN TERRY DROVE AWAY INTO THE DARKNESS, LEAVING HER ALONE WITH CYAN.

SOMETHING VISITED HER THAT NIGHT...

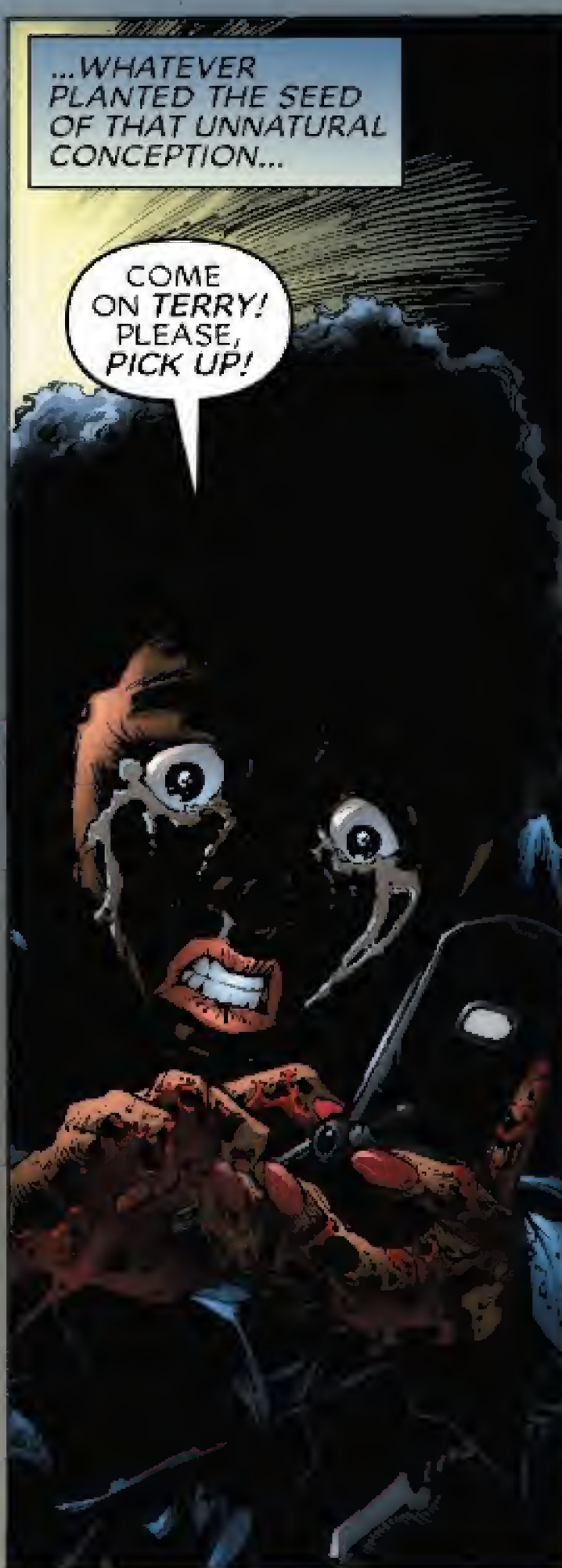


I NEED AN AMBULANCE. THERE'S BEEN A...AN ACCIDENT... MY SON...

...I THINK HE'S DEAD.

...WHATEVER PLANTED THE SEED OF THAT UNNATURAL CONCEPTION...

COME ON TERRY! PLEASE, PICK UP!

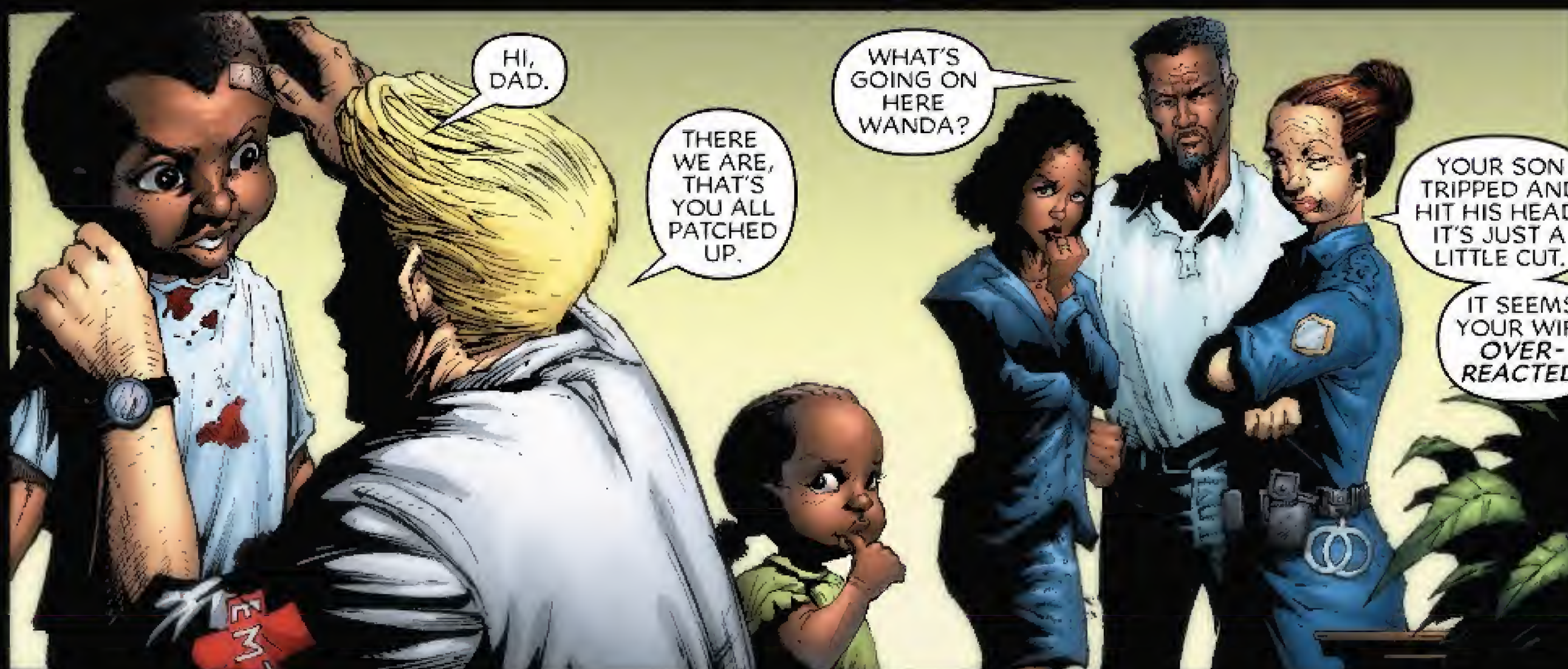
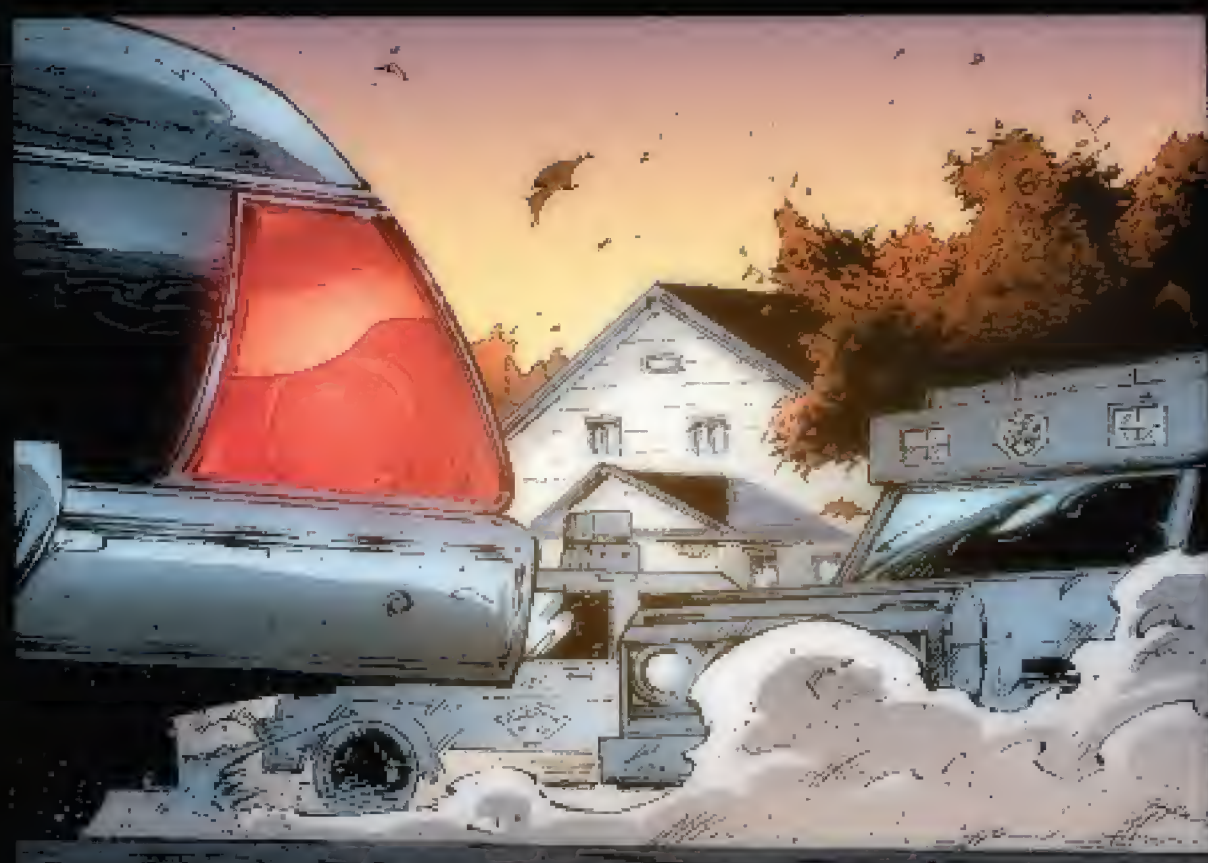
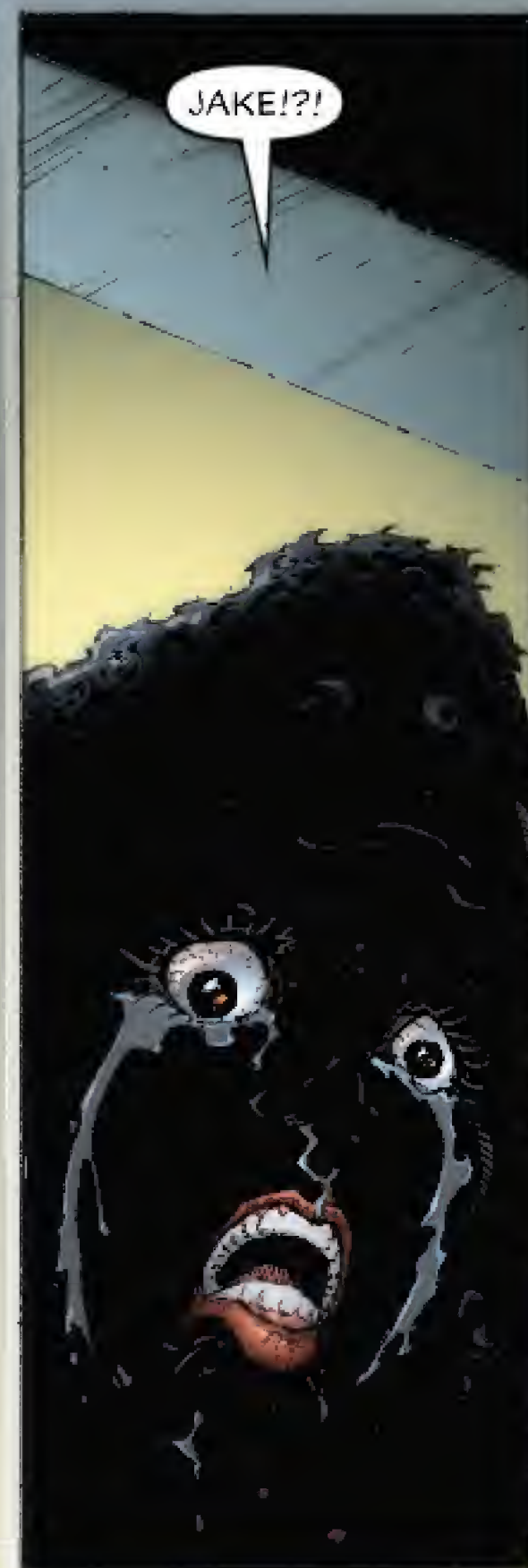


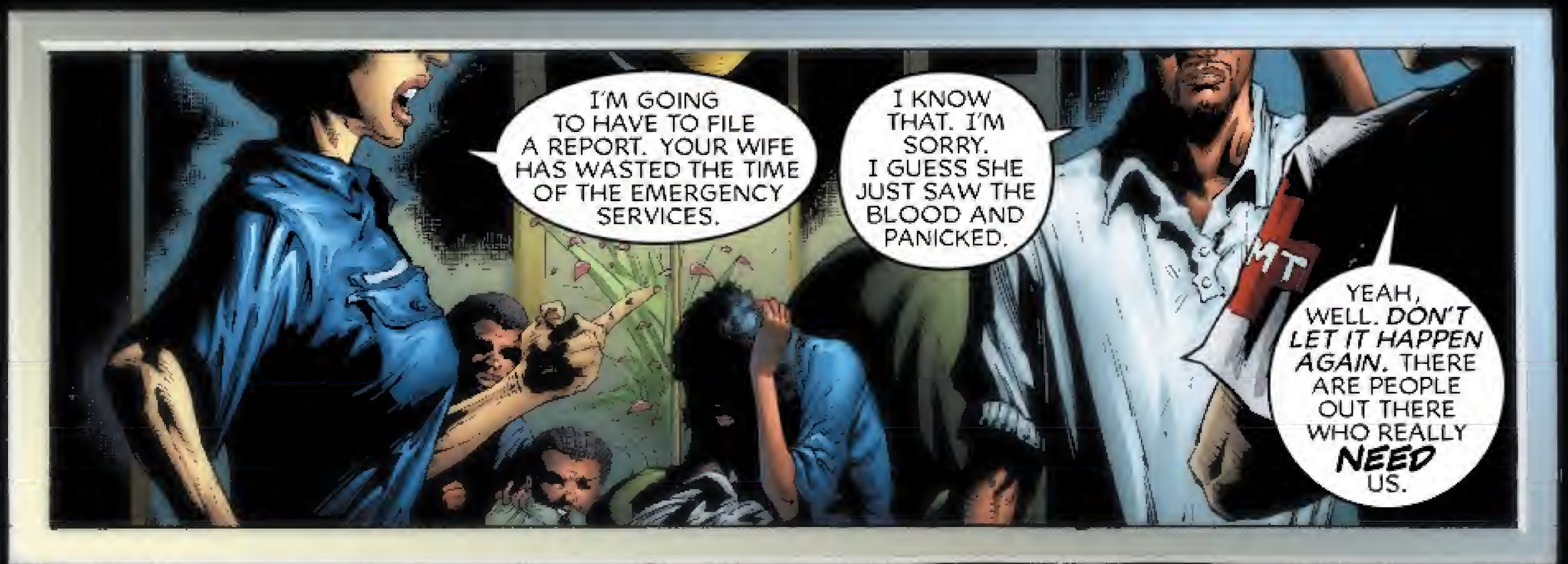
...IT WAS NOT HUMAN.

TERRY! THANK GOD! YOU HAVE TO COME HOME. IT'S JAKE...

I THINK KATIE KILLED JAKE.







I'M GOING TO HAVE TO FILE A REPORT. YOUR WIFE HAS WASTED THE TIME OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES.

I KNOW THAT. I'M SORRY. I GUESS SHE JUST SAW THE BLOOD AND PANICKED.

YEAH, WELL. DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN. THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO REALLY **NEED** US.



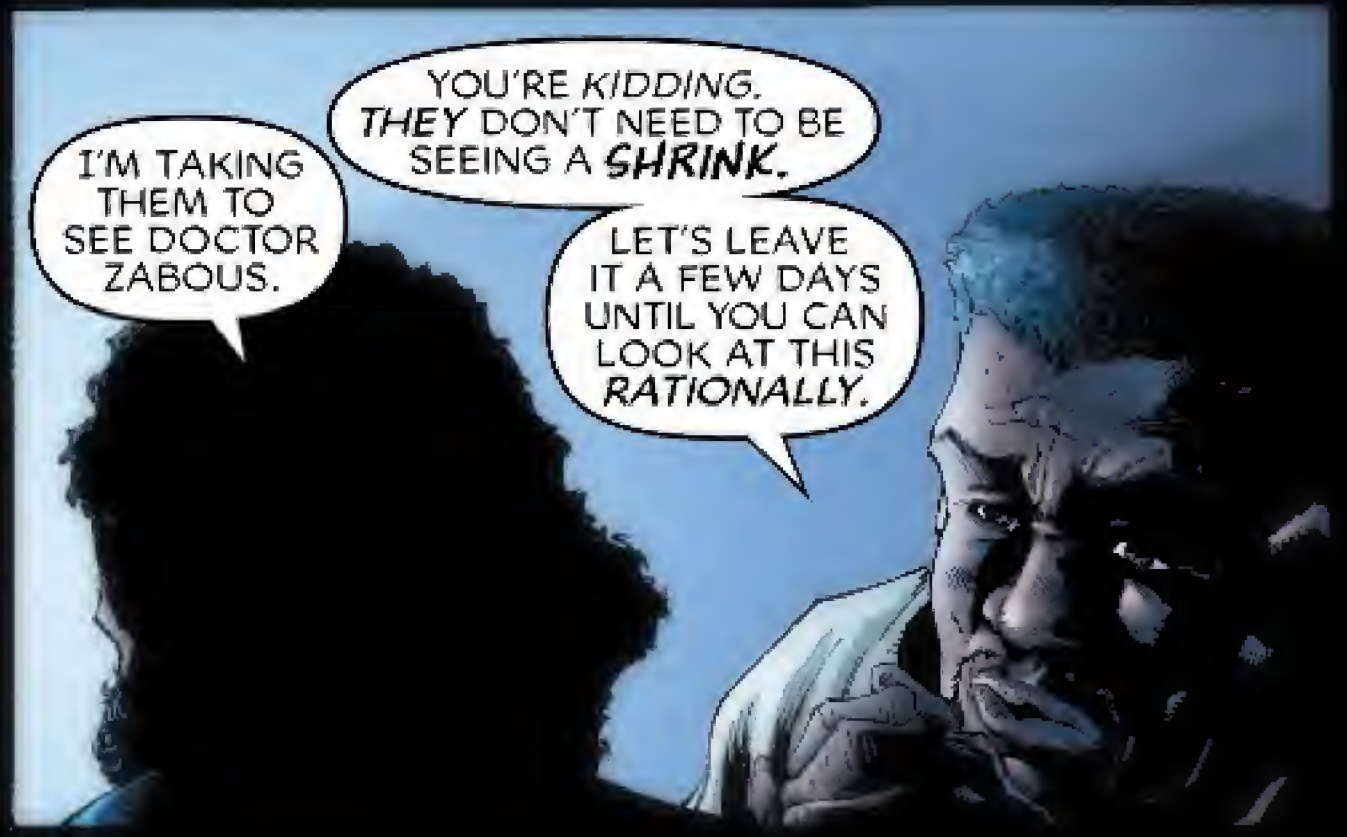
I'M TELLING YOU, TERRY, SHE BEAT HIM WITH YOUR BASEBALL BAT. THERE WAS BLOOD EVERYWHERE.

I DON'T SEE ANY BLOOD.



THEY CLEANED IT UP.

RIGHT. **THEY** CLEANED IT UP.



I'M TAKING THEM TO SEE DOCTOR ZABOUS.

YOU'RE KIDDING. **THEY** DON'T NEED TO BE SEEING A **SHRINK**.

LET'S LEAVE IT A FEW DAYS UNTIL YOU CAN LOOK AT THIS **RATIONALLY**.



THIS CAN'T WAIT. I'VE CALLED DOCTOR ZABOUS AND SHE CAN FIT US IN THIS EVENING.

I'M SO **AFRAID** TERRY...



I'M AFRAID THOSE CHILDREN ARE **MONSTERS**.

BENGAL,
NORTHERN
INDIA. SPAWN
FACES KALI,
THE HINDU
GODDESS OF
DESTRUCTION.

YOU'VE
FED ON
YOUR LAST
CORPSE,
KALI.

YOU'RE NOT
FIGHTING A
DEMON NOW,
HELLSPAWN.

THESE
CHAINS
CANNOT
BIND A
GOD.

AAAAARRRRGGH!!

SPAWN
HAS NEVER
EXPERIENCED
PAIN LIKE
THIS. IT FEELS
AS IF HIS
OWN LIMBS
HAVE BEEN
SEVERED BY
BLADES OF
RED-HOT
STEEL.



WHAT'S HAPPENING TO SPAWN? WE MUST HELP HIM.

HOW CAN WE HELP? WE'RE NOT SOLDIERS, IN LIFE WE WERE DOCTORS. OUR VOCATION IS TO HEAL, NOT TO FIGHT.

KALI CANNOT BE DEFEATED.

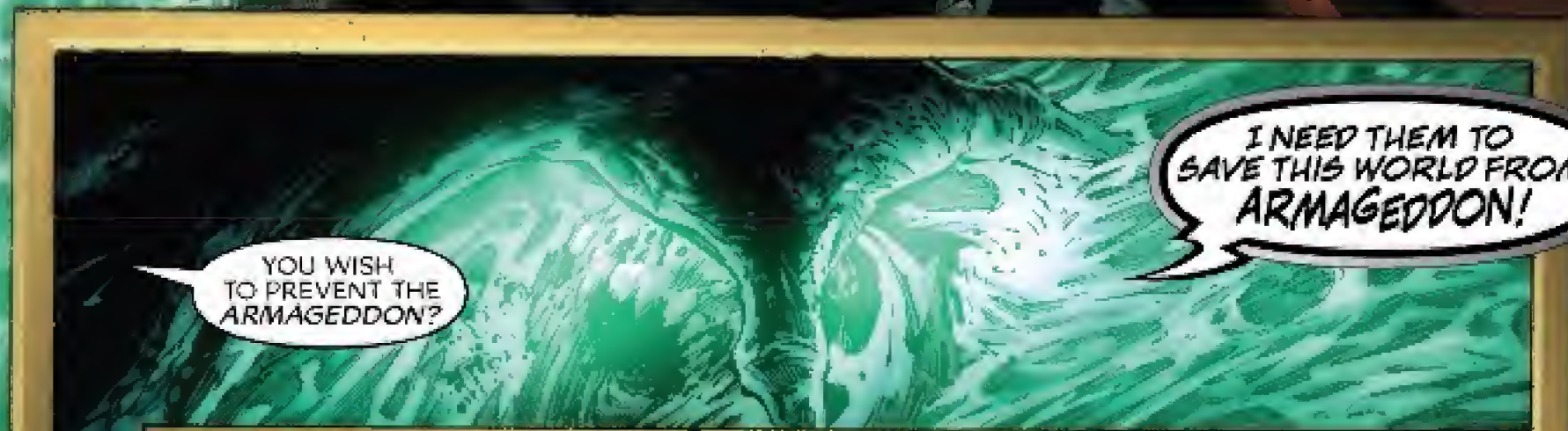
"NO ONE, GOD OR DEMON, HAS EVER BEATEN HER."

I FEEL THE EMPTINESS IN YOU, HELL SPAWN. I HEAR THE TORMENTED CRIES OF THE SOULS TRAPPED INSIDE YOUR UNDEAD CARCASS.

THEY CRY OUT TO BE FREE OF YOU. THEY BEG FOR DEATH.

I WILL GIVE THEM WHAT THEY DESIRE.

NO!! THESE SOULS ARE PART OF ME!



YOU WISH TO PREVENT THE ARMAGEDDON?

I NEED THEM TO SAVE THIS WORLD FROM ARMAGEDDON!



YES.

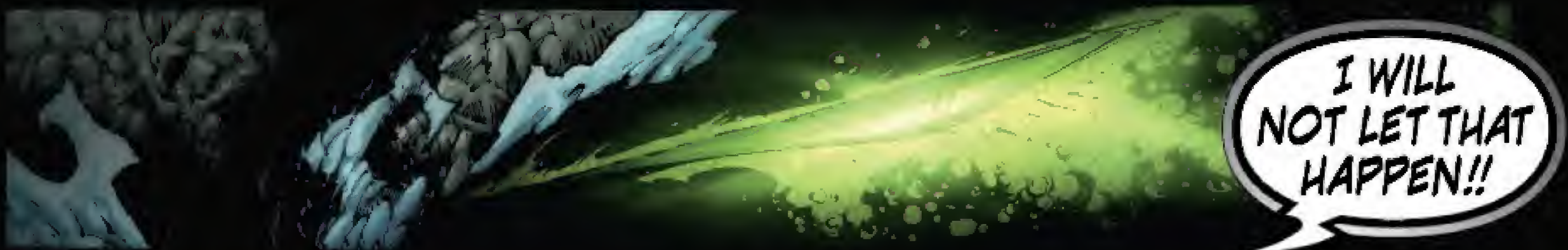


WHY SHOULD YOU WANT TO AVOID THIS WAR? ARE YOU NOT A HELLSPAWN? SURELY WARFARE IS YOUR ONLY *PURPOSE*.

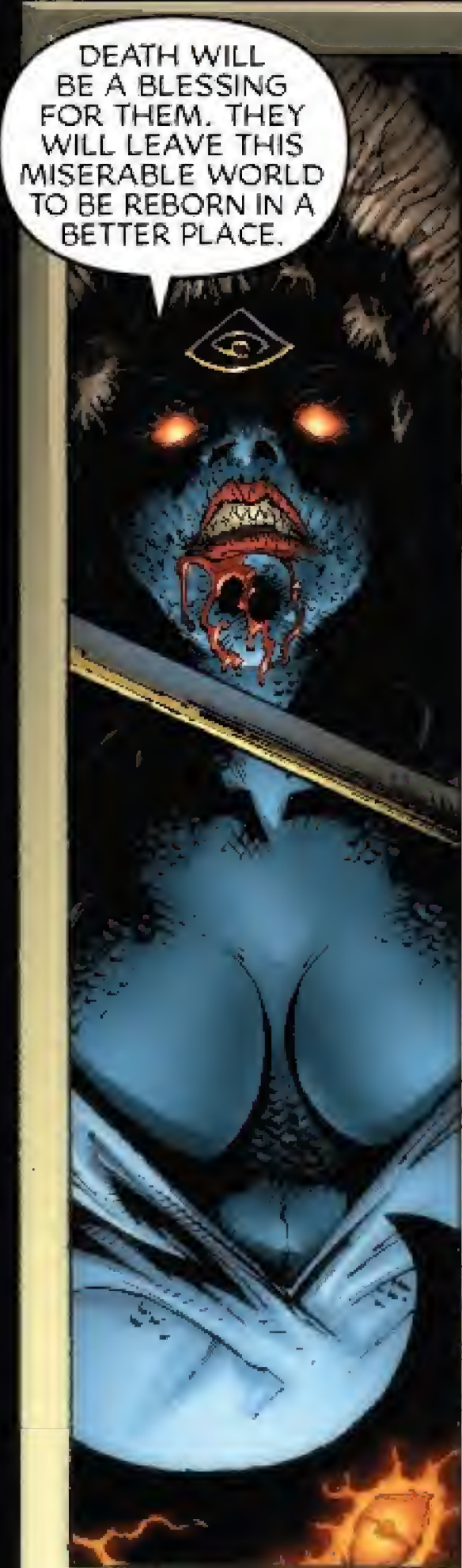
WEREN'T YOU CREATED TO BE HELL'S WARRIOR?

I CHOOSE WHO I FIGHT FOR.

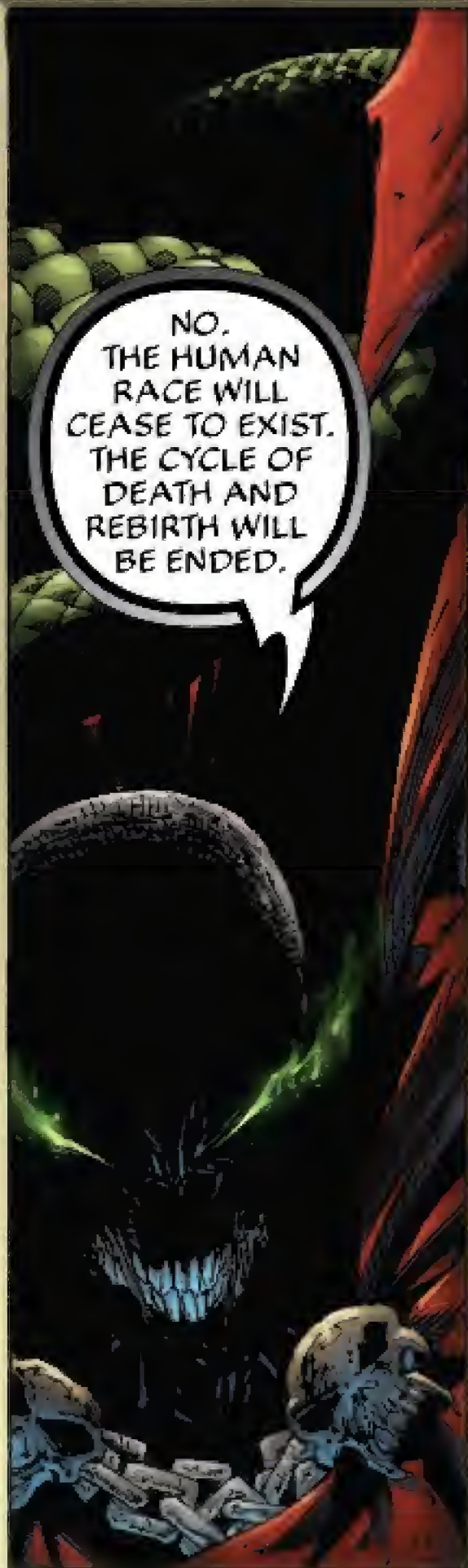
IF THIS WAR HAPPENS, EVERY HUMAN BEING ON THIS PLANET WILL DIE.



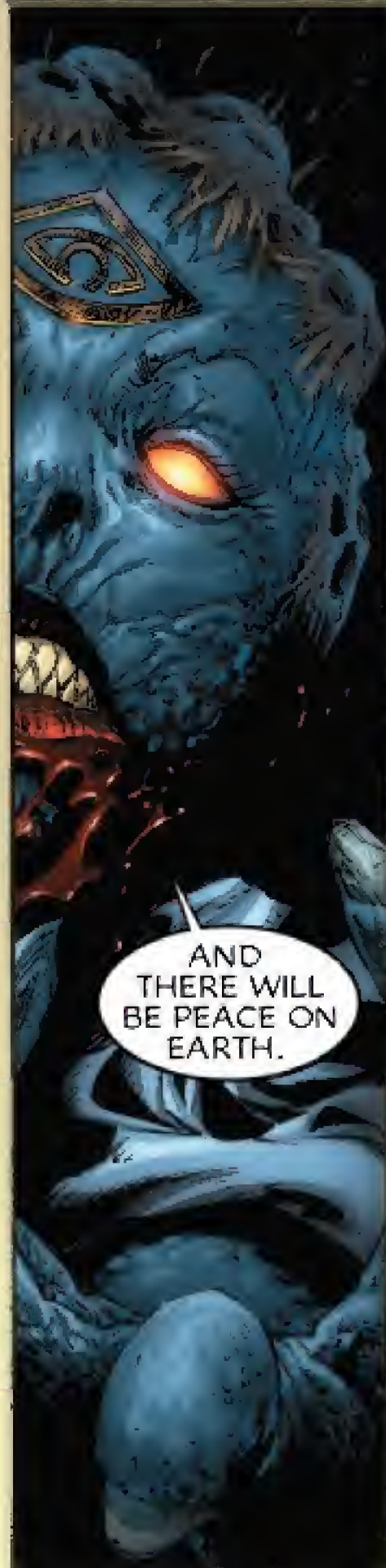
I WILL NOT LET THAT HAPPEN!!



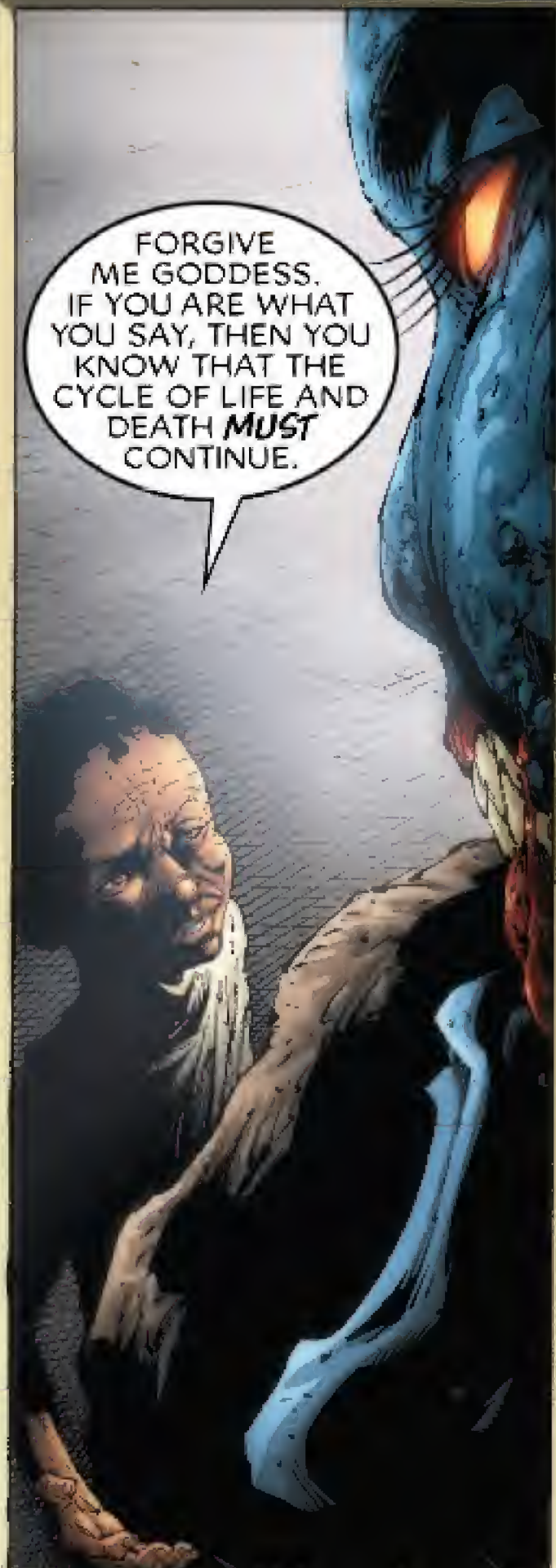
DEATH WILL BE A BLESSING FOR THEM. THEY WILL LEAVE THIS MISERABLE WORLD TO BE REBORN IN A BETTER PLACE.



NO. THE HUMAN RACE WILL CEASE TO EXIST. THE CYCLE OF DEATH AND REBIRTH WILL BE ENDED.



AND THERE WILL BE PEACE ON EARTH.



FORGIVE ME GODDESS. IF YOU ARE WHAT YOU SAY, THEN YOU KNOW THAT THE CYCLE OF LIFE AND DEATH *MUST* CONTINUE.



YOU HAVE COURAGE, LITTLE MAN.

THERE ARE FEW WHO DARE LOOK ME IN THE FACE.

I DO NOT FEAR DEATH, BUT I FEAR THE ANNIHILATION OF THE WORLD IF YOU DESTROY THE HELLSPAWN.



SO. I WILL OFFER YOU A BARGAIN.

WHAT SACRIFICE WILL YOU MAKE TO APPEASE ME AND SAVE THIS CREATURE?

WHAT IS MOST PRECIOUS TO YOU?



NO AMAL! PLEASE! DON'T ASK ME THAT.



WE MUST. THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO LET GO.



THIS IS ALL THAT TIES US TO OUR EARTHLY LIFE.



THE DAY WE
DIED, WE WERE ON
OUR WAY TO VISIT
SHANTI'S PARENTS
IN MYSORE.

WE HAD
GOOD NEWS
FOR THEM.



BUT THE MOUNTAIN
ROAD WAS TOO
NARROW TO
AVOID THE TRUCK.
WE NEVER STOOD
A CHANCE.



MY WIFE WAS
PREGNANT.

THREE
LIVES WERE
LOST THAT
DAY.



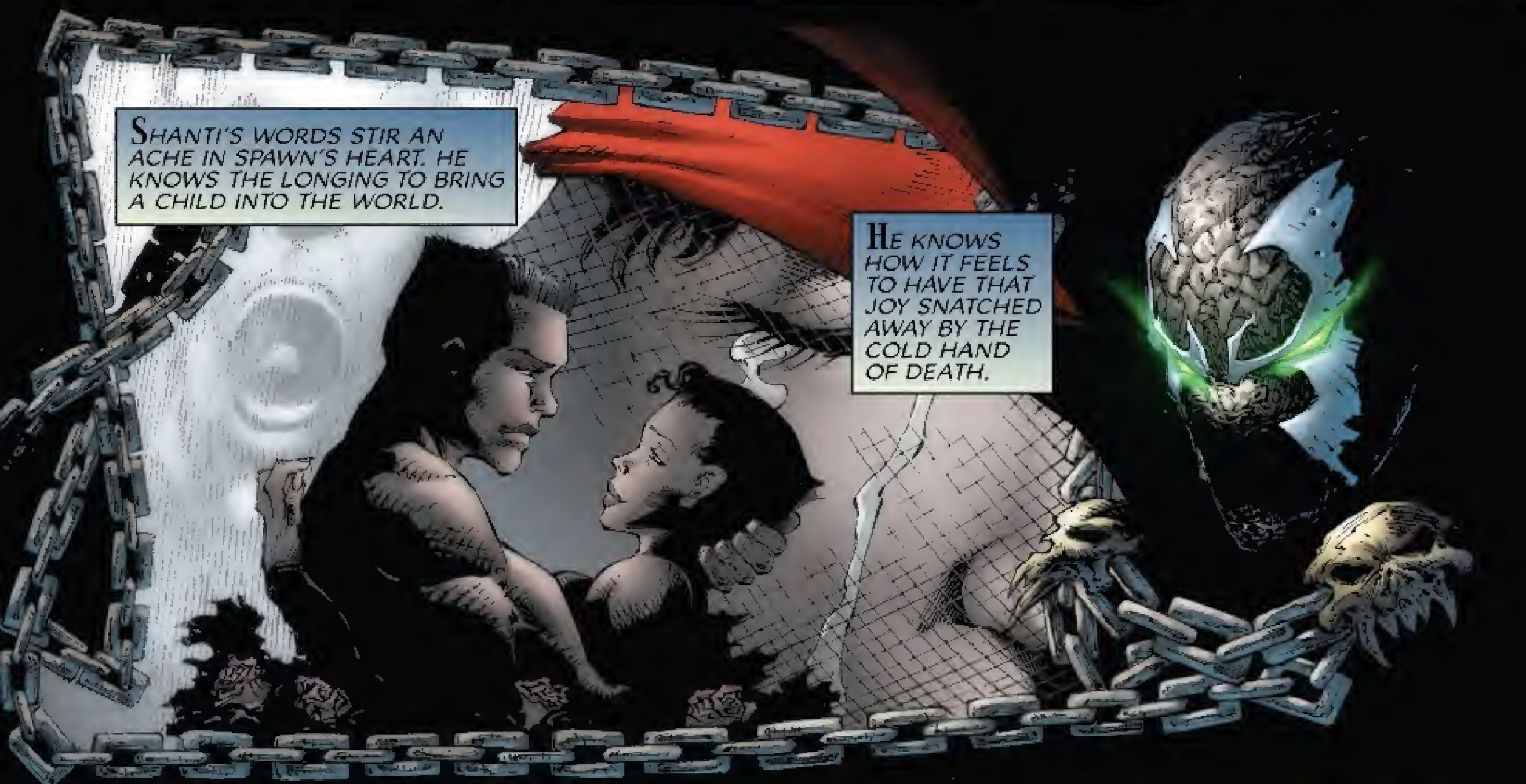
IF THIS CHILD
WAS UNBORN, THEN
SHE WAS NEVER TRULY
ALIVE. SHE EXISTS IN A
LIMBO BETWEEN HER
PAST LIFE AND THE
NEXT.

I KNOW THAT.
BUT IT HAS BEEN
SO *HARD* TO
GIVE HER UP.



WE WANTED THIS CHILD SO MUCH. WE WAITED SO LONG.

IF WE LOSE HER NOW, WE'LL NEVER SEE HER AGAIN.



SHANTI'S WORDS STIR AN ACHE IN SPAWN'S HEART. HE KNOWS THE LONGING TO BRING A CHILD INTO THE WORLD.

HE KNOWS HOW IT FEELS TO HAVE THAT JOY SNATCHED AWAY BY THE COLD HAND OF DEATH.



WE HAVE ALL ETERNITY. WE **WILL** SEE HER AGAIN.

YOU KNOW WE HAVE TO DO THIS.



KALI IS LIFE AND DEATH, CREATOR AND DESTROYER. BUT ABOVE ALL ELSE SHE IS A MOTHER.

TAKE HER THEN.

YOU SEE, SPAWN--YOU HANG ONTO YOUR MISERABLE HALF-LIFE. YOU FIGHT, YOU KILL. YOU DESTROY. BUT THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO GAIN A VICTORY.

THESE PEOPLE
ARE WILLING TO GIVE
UP A LIFE A *THOUSAND*
TIMES MORE PRECIOUS
THAN YOURS.

THE LIFE
OF AN *UNBORN*
CHILD, A PURE
SOUL, UNTAINTED
BY THE PASSIONS
OF HUMAN
EXISTENCE.

I ACCEPT THIS
SACRIFICE.

I GIVE
THIS CHILD
THE GIFT OF
DEATH...

...SO THAT
SHE MAY
BE *BORN*
AGAIN.

THE COURAGE
AND WISDOM OF
SHANTI AND AMAL
HAS SAVED YOU. I
WILL SPARE YOU,
HELLSPAWN...

...FOR
NOW.

LEARN
YOUR
LESSON
WELL.



I'M
GRATEFUL.
I OWE
YOU-

-NOTHING.

OUR CHILD
DIDN'T *BELONG*
HERE. IT WAS OUR
OWN SELFISHNESS
THAT KEPT HER
WITH US.

I DON'T
KNOW WHY
WE WERE
CHOSEN TO
BE HERE, BUT
IF THAT'S WHAT
FATE HAS
DECIDED,
WE'RE *READY*
TO JOIN
YOU.



AS SPAWN
ABSORBS
THE SOULS
OF AMAL
AND SHANTI,
HE FEELS
THEIR PAIN,
THEIR LOSS,
AND THEIR
JOY.



IT IS ALMOST
TOO MUCH
FOR HIM TO
BEAR.

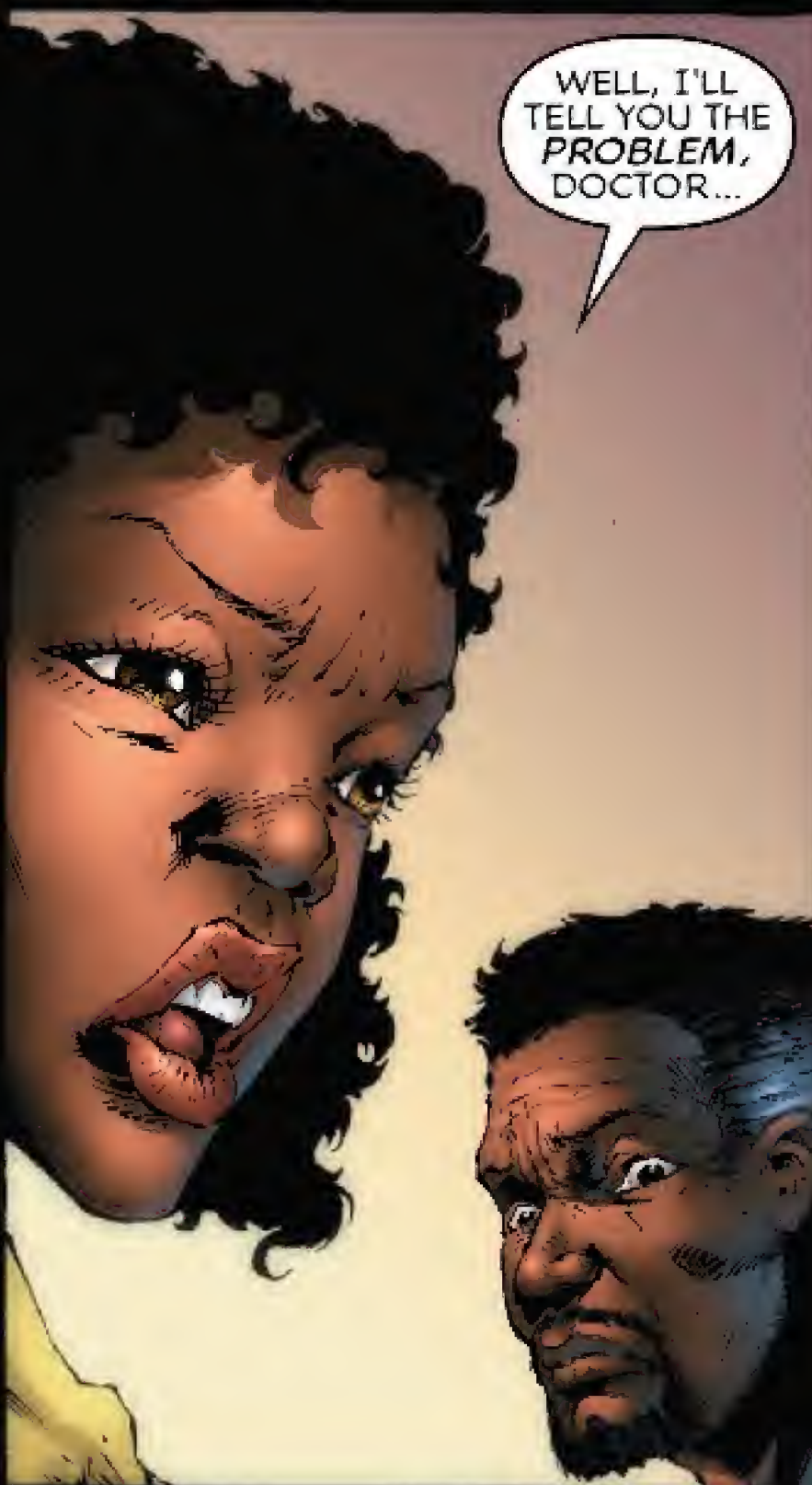
AL?
WHAT'S
WRONG?

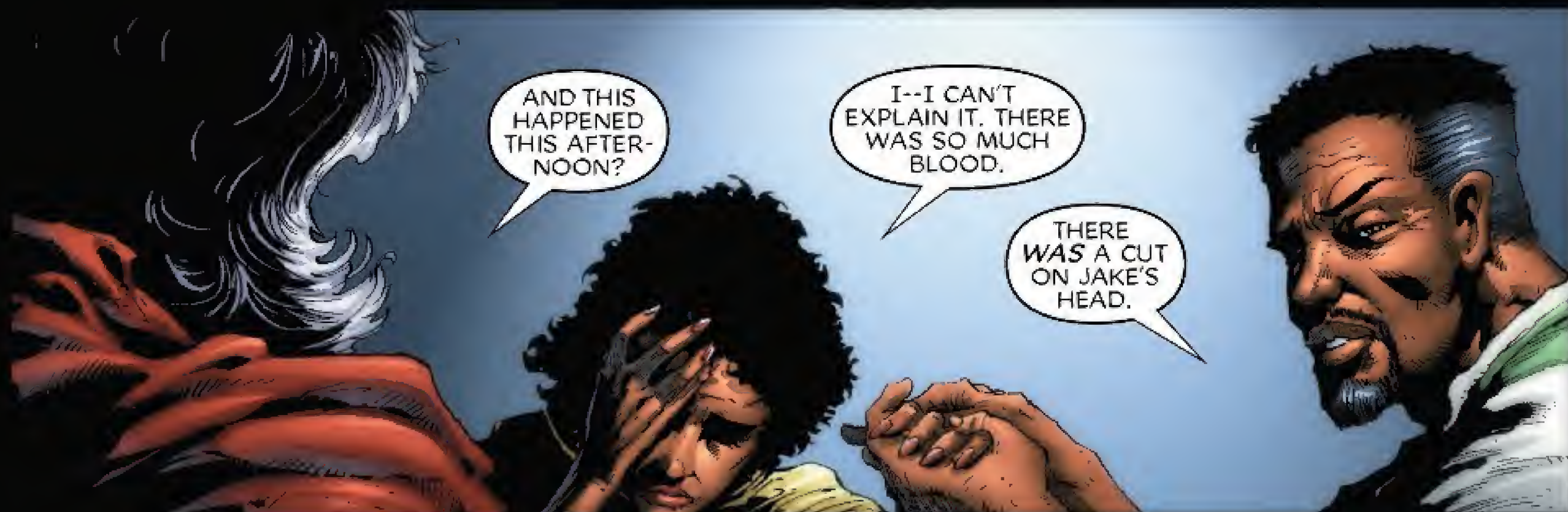
NOTHING.

NOTHING'S
WRONG.



WE'RE
DONE
HERE.





AND THIS
HAPPENED
THIS AFTER-
NOON?

I--I CAN'T
EXPLAIN IT. THERE
WAS SO MUCH
BLOOD.

THERE
WAS A CUT
ON JAKE'S
HEAD.



YES. I
SAW THAT.
THE TWINS
ADMITTED THEY
HAD A TUSSLE
AND JAKE
BANGED HIS
HEAD.

A
TUSSLE?!

IT WAS
A BRUTAL
ASSAULT.

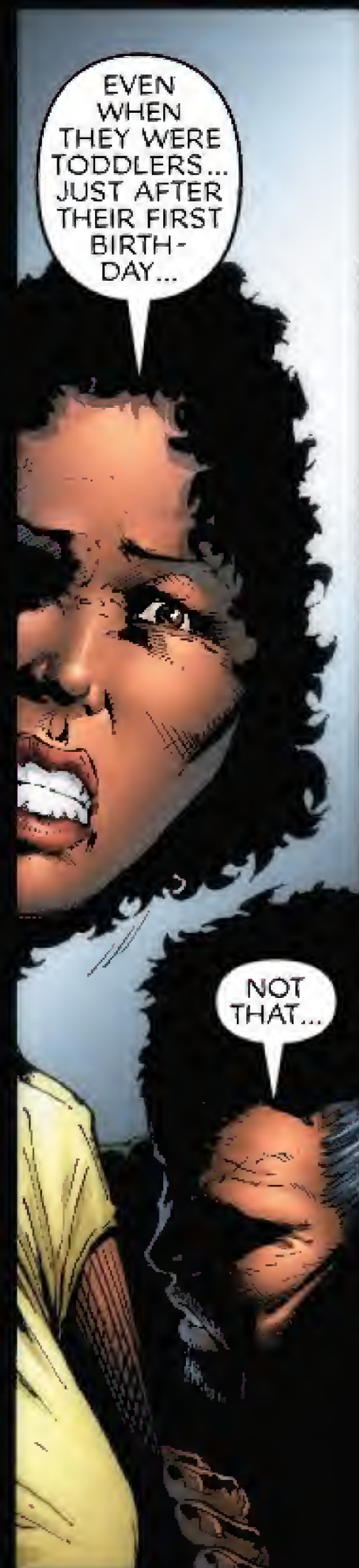
UH HUH.

SO
WHAT ELSE
HAS BEEN
BOTHERING
YOU?



THIS HAS
BEEN GOING
ON FOR
YEARS. LITTLE
THINGS
MOSTLY, BUT
WHEN YOU
PUT THEM
TOGETHER...

WANDA,
PLEASE...



EVEN
WHEN
THEY WERE
TODDLERS...
JUST AFTER
THEIR FIRST
BIRTH-
DAY...

NOT
THAT...



YES, TERRY.
THAT!

"THE TWINS WERE PLAYING WITH MAGNETIC LETTERS, STICKING THEM ON THE ICEBOX. THEY SPELLED OUT **KILL MOMMY**".

"CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW THAT FELT? **KILL MOMMY!**"

KILL MOMMY

AND THEY WERE **HOW** OLD? **TWELVE MONTHS??!**

ARE YOU SAYING THEY COULD **SPELL** AT ONE YEAR OLD?

NO. THAT'S JUST IT. THEY COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE-

HONEY, CALM DOWN.

I WILL **NOT** CALM DOWN! THEY'RE NOT NORMAL!

WHEN I LOOK AT THEM...

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO **LOVE** THEM?

HOW **CAN** I WHEN I'M NOT EVEN SURE THEY'RE OURS?





MANHATTAN.

HELLO,
SAM.

JEEZUS
FREAKING
CHRIST!
DO YOU HAVE
TO SNEAK UP
LIKE THAT?

YOU
SCARED
THE CRAP
OUT OF
ME.



THERE'S A COUPLE
OF YOUR **UNDEAD**
BUDDIES DOWNSTAIRS.
A JAPANESE GIRL AND
HER GRANDPA.

THEY'RE
GIVING ME THE
CREEPS.

HIROSHI
AND
KUMIKO.

HOW
DID THEY
DO?



PRETTY
GOOD, I GUESS.
JOSHUA CREEK IS
NOW OFFICIALLY A
ZOMBIE-FREE
ZONE.

CAN'T SAY
THEY LOOK TOO
HAPPY ABOUT IT
THOUGH.



YOU BETTER
COME INSIDE. TWITCH
HAS SOME NEW INFO
FOR YOU.



WELCOME BACK,
SIMMONS-SAN.

AL!
WHAT
HAPPENED IN
INDIA? WAS
IT REALLY
KALI?

DID
YOU BEAT
HER?



BEAT HER?
SHE COULD HAVE
CRUSHED ME LIKE A
COCKROACH.

I NEED TO
KNOW WHAT
I'VE BECOME,
MAX.

I HAVE
TO LEARN
HOW TO USE THE
FORCES INSIDE
ME, OR WE CAN
ALL KISS OUR
ASSES
GOODBYE!



UH, OKAY,
WELL, I'VE BEEN
LOOKING INTO THE
DEATH OF HIROSHI
AND KUMIKO AND
I'VE ALSO DONE
AN INTERNET
SEARCH ON
CHRISTOPHER.



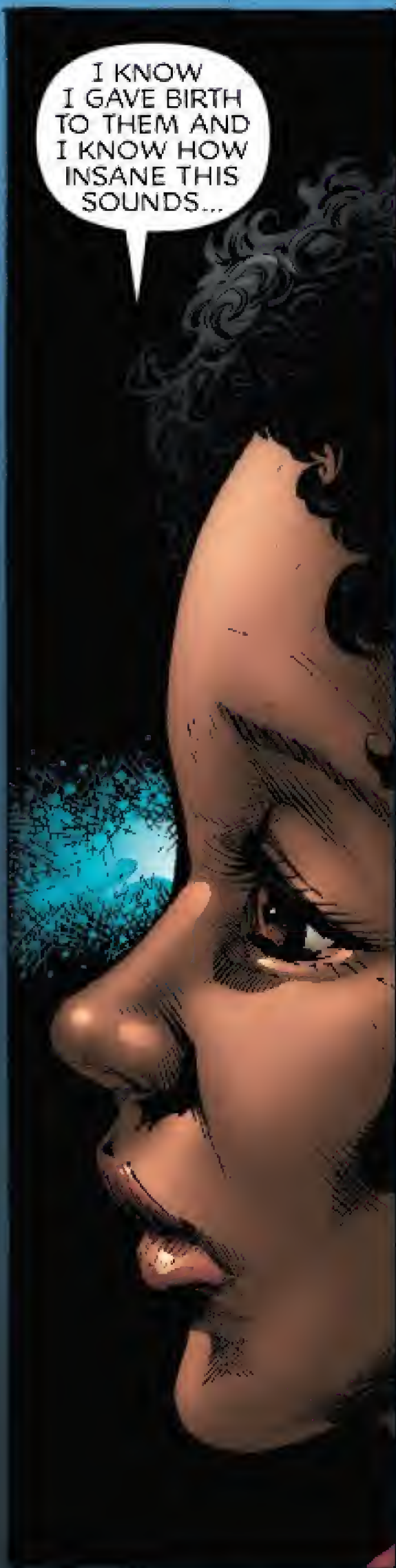
I THINK
I *DO*
KNOW
WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TO YOU,
AL.



WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU WANDA?

WHAT YOU SAID... ABOUT THE TWINS NOT BEING MINE?

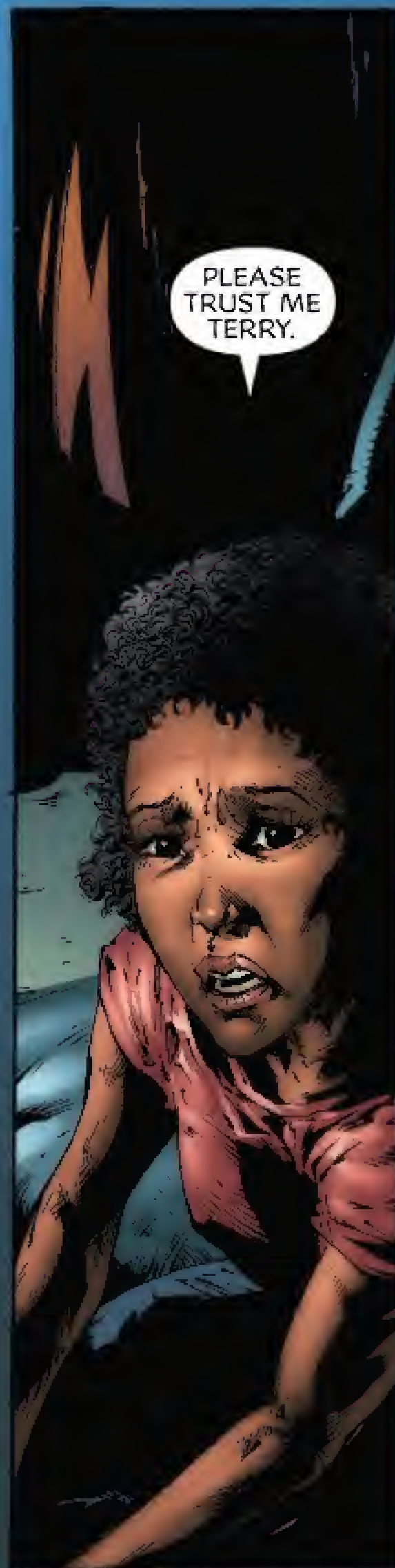
OURS. I SAID THEY'RE NOT **OURS** TERRY.



I KNOW I GAVE BIRTH TO THEM AND I KNOW HOW INSANE THIS SOUNDS...



...I KNOW...



PLEASE TRUST ME TERRY.



I'M TRYING, WANDA.

I'M TRYING.



MEANWHILE...

I'M BORED.

LET'S **DO** SOMETHING.

OKAY.



I KNOW WHERE DAD KEEPS SOMETHING REALLY COOL.





WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING!?!
YOU ARE
GOING TO GET
IN SO MUCH
TROUBLE.

NO
WE WON'T.
EVERYBODY
KNOWS MOMMY'S
CRAZY. GONNA
BE ALL OVER
THE NEWS.

CRAZY LADY
KILLS HER HUSBAND
AND TEN-YEAR-OLD
DAUGHTER...

... THEN
BLOWS
HER
BRAINS
OUT.

TO BE CONTINUED

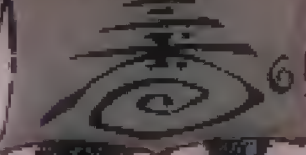


SPAWN®



PHILIP
TAN '05

Martinez
DANNY



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ANGELS
COME IN
MANY
FORMS.

AS MESSENGERS FROM GOD,
BEINGS OF PURE LIGHT WHO DWELL
IN THE CELESTIAL COURT.

GUARDIAN ANGELS,
TO WATCH OVER US,
PROTECTING US
FROM HARM.

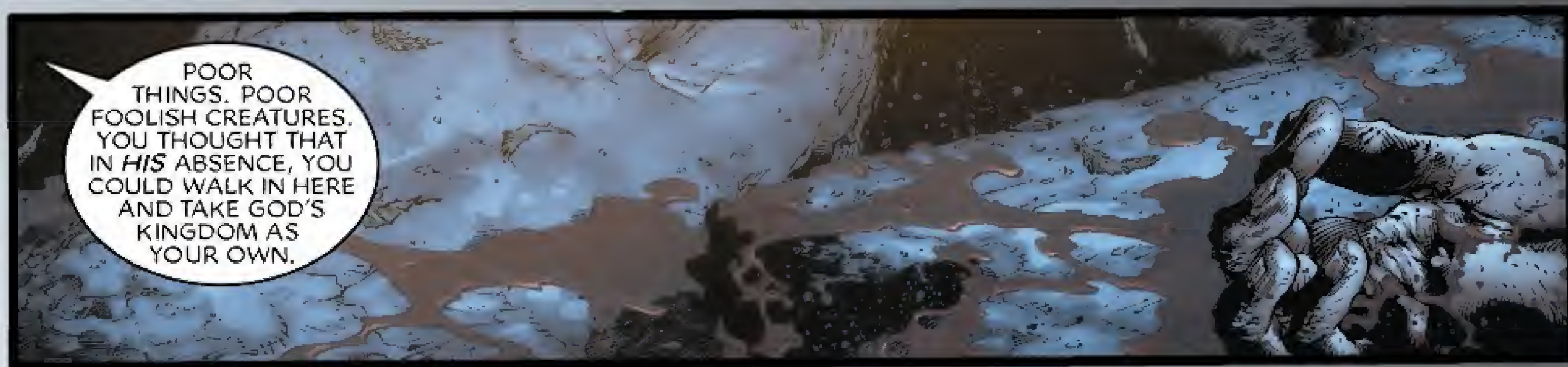
FALLEN ANGELS, THOSE
TRAGIC CREATURES WHO
TURNED AGAINST THEIR
LORD AND WERE CAST INTO
THE FIERY PITS OF HELL.

AND THEN
THERE ARE THE
FORGOTTEN,
THE LOST TRIBE
OF HEAVEN
WHO REMAINED
LOYAL TO GOD,
BUT REFUSED TO
FIGHT AGAINST
THEIR FELLOW
ANGELS.

THEY TOO WERE CAST OUT, FORCED TO
DWELL IN THE DARKNESS BETWEEN WORLDS,
UNTIL THEY WERE FREED FROM THEIR
COVENANT BY SPAWN.

NOW THE
FORGOTTEN
HAVE
RETURNED
TO TAKE
BACK THEIR
HERITAGE.

AND
ONCE
AGAIN
THERE IS
WAR
IN
HEAVEN...



POOR THINGS. POOR FOOLISH CREATURES. YOU THOUGHT THAT IN *HIS* ABSENCE, YOU COULD WALK IN HERE AND TAKE GOD'S KINGDOM AS YOUR OWN.

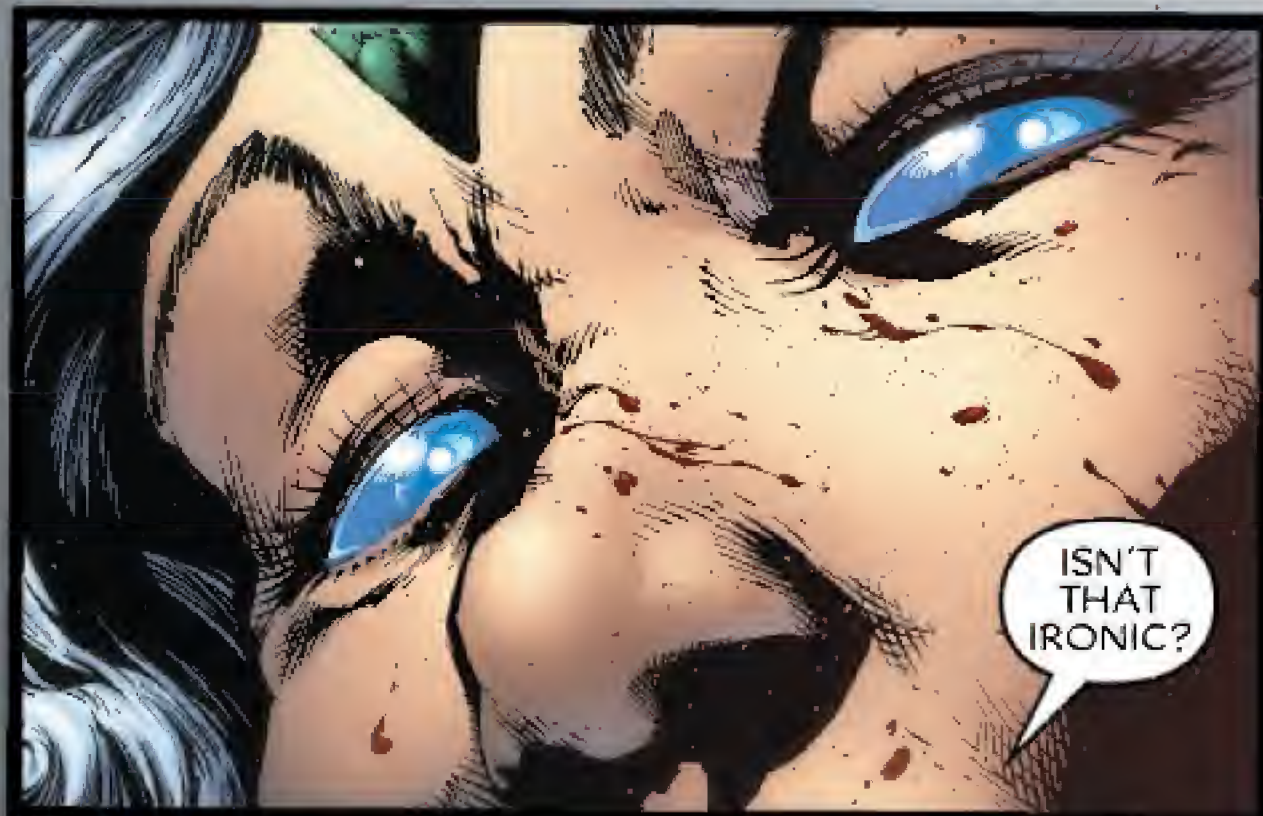


YOU HAD NO IDEA THAT YOU WOULD BE FACING ZERA, THE GREATEST OF THE SERAPHIM.

YOU NEVER STOOD A CHANCE.



HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE THE LAST OF YOUR RACE? TO KNOW THAT AFTER I KILL YOU, THE FORGOTTEN WILL BE NO MORE THAN A MEMORY.



ISN'T THAT IRONIC?



I CH-KKK AM NOT THE LAST. THERE IS ANOTHER...





IT'S A PITY
YOU KILLED THEM
ALL. THE FORCES OF
HEAVEN ARE SORELY
DEPLETED.

IF YOU HAD
GIVEN THEM THE
CHANCE TO SURRENDER,
THEY MIGHT HAVE
JOINED US.

SISTERS, I HAVE
JUST SAVED YOUR GLOSSY,
PAMPERED SKINS.

YOU MIGHT
SHOW SOME
GRATITUDE.



THIS BATTLE WAS NOTHING
COMPARED TO THE ONE THAT IS TO
COME. HELL PREPARES ITSELF. IT HAS
NEVER BEEN STRONGER.

WHILE WE
ARE AT OUR
WEAKEST.



THEN
CLEARLY
IT IS TIME TO
SUMMON
THE
FAITHFUL.



YOU SPEAK
OF THE
RAPTURE?

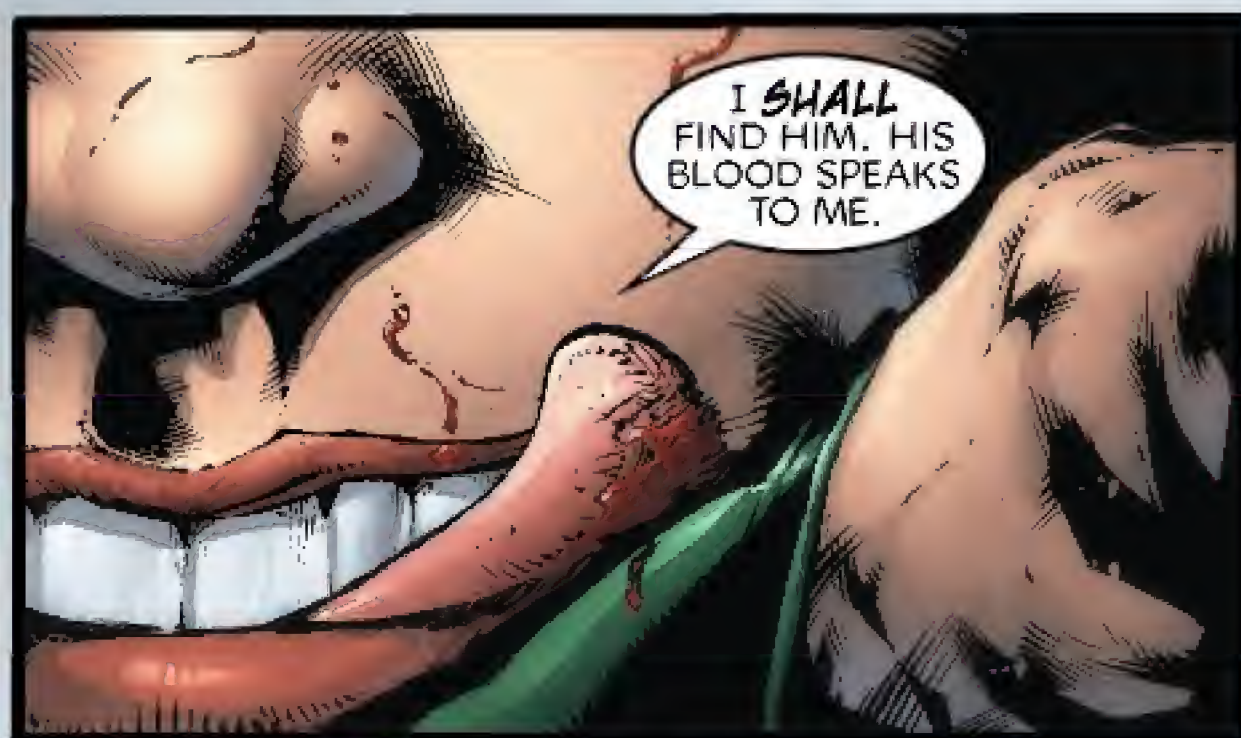
ONLY
THE LORD
GOD HIMSELF
CAN INITIATE THE
RAPTURE, AND
HE IS LOST
TO US.

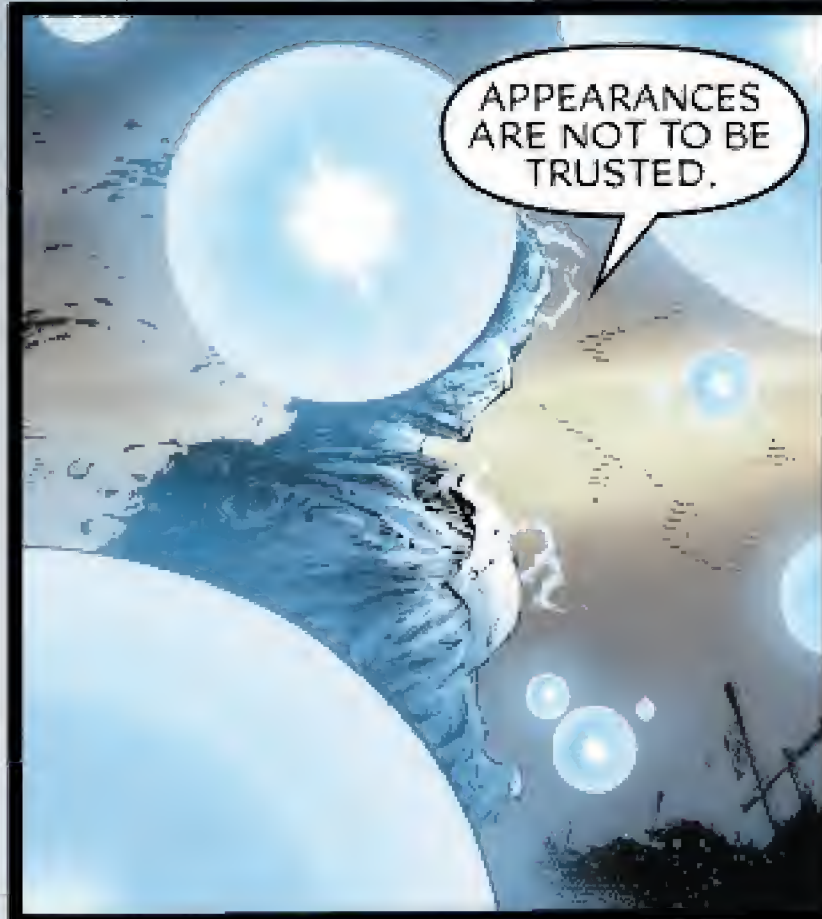
LOST?

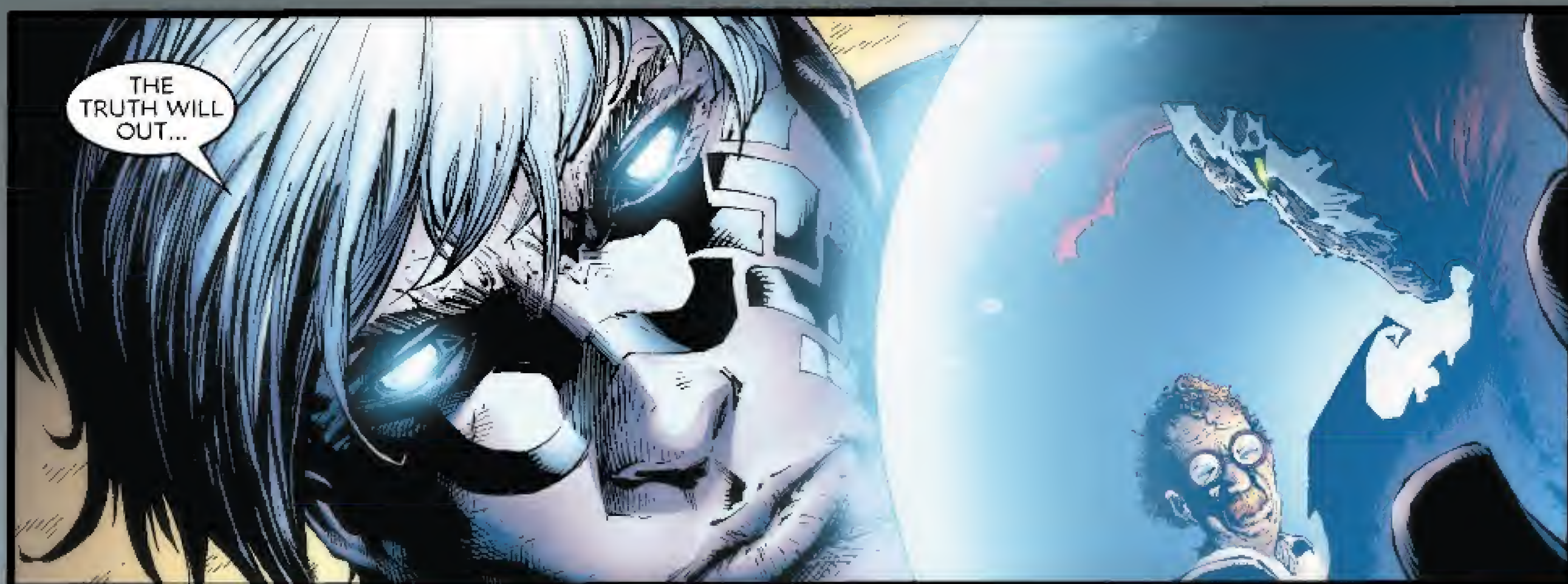
HOW VERY
CARELESS OF
YOU.



DON'T WORRY
SISTERS. I WILL
SEEK HIM OUT. I WAS
ALWAYS GOD'S
MOST TRUSTED
WARRIOR.







THE TRUTH WILL OUT...



I'VE DISCOVERED THAT CHRISTOPHER, KUMIKO AND HIROSHI ALL DIED THE SAME DAY.

YOU'LL RECOGNIZE THE DATE, AL.

YEAH. MY LAST DAY ON EARTH AS AL SIMMONS.

SO I WAS RIGHT. ALL THESE SOULS HAVE BEEN WITH ME FROM THE BEGINNING.

FORGIVE ME SIMMONS-SAN, BUT WE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THIS. I REMEMBER MY DEATH, BUT SINCE THEN, FOR KUMIKO AND I, THERE HAS BEEN NOTHING BUT DARKNESS, UNTIL YOU SUMMONED US.



I WAS ONCE A MAN LIKE YOU HIROSHI. I WAS KILLED. MURDERED BY SOMEONE I TRUSTED. AS I PASSED FROM LIFE TO DEATH I WAS MADE AN OFFER BY MALEBOLGIA, RULER OF THE EIGHTH CIRCLE OF HELL.

IN ORDER TO SEE MY WIFE WANDA AGAIN, I AGREED TO RETURN TO EARTH AS A HELLSPAWN, UNTIL THE TIME CAME FOR ME TO LEAD THE FORCES OF HELL IN THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON.

I WAS NOT THE FIRST. THERE WERE MANY BEFORE ME OVER THE AGES.



BUT YOU
AREN'T LIKE OTHER
HELLSPAWNS ARE
YOU?

WHEN YOU WERE
RESURRECTED, YOU
BROUGHT ALL THESE OTHER
SOULS BACK WITH YOU
HIDDEN IN YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS
UNTIL MAN OF MIRACLES
AWOKE CHRISTOPHER.



HOW
MANY OF
US ARE
THERE?

140,000
PEOPLE DIE
EACH DAY
WORLDWIDE.

BUT FROM MY
RESEARCH IT SEEMS
THAT YOU MAY ALL
HAVE DIED WITHIN AN
HOUR OF ONE
ANOTHER.



ABOUT SIX
THOUSAND INDIVIDUALS
WOULD HAVE DIED DURING THAT
HOUR. I'VE USED EVERY INTERNET
SEARCH METHOD I COULD THINK
OF TO TRACK THEM.

THIS LIST IS
INCOMPLETE. IT ONLY
HAS TWO THOUSAND OF
THEIR NAMES.



AS HE
SCANS THE
LIST SPAWN
HEARS A
WHISPERING
IN HIS MIND.
THE VOICES
OF THE DEAD
AS THEY
RECOGNIZE
THEIR
NAMES.

ALL THESE
PEOPLE. I'M
ALL THESE
PEOPLE!

THIS IS WHY
MALEBOLGIA COULD
NEVER CONTROL ME.
HE WAS TRYING TO
CONTROL AL
SIMMONS.

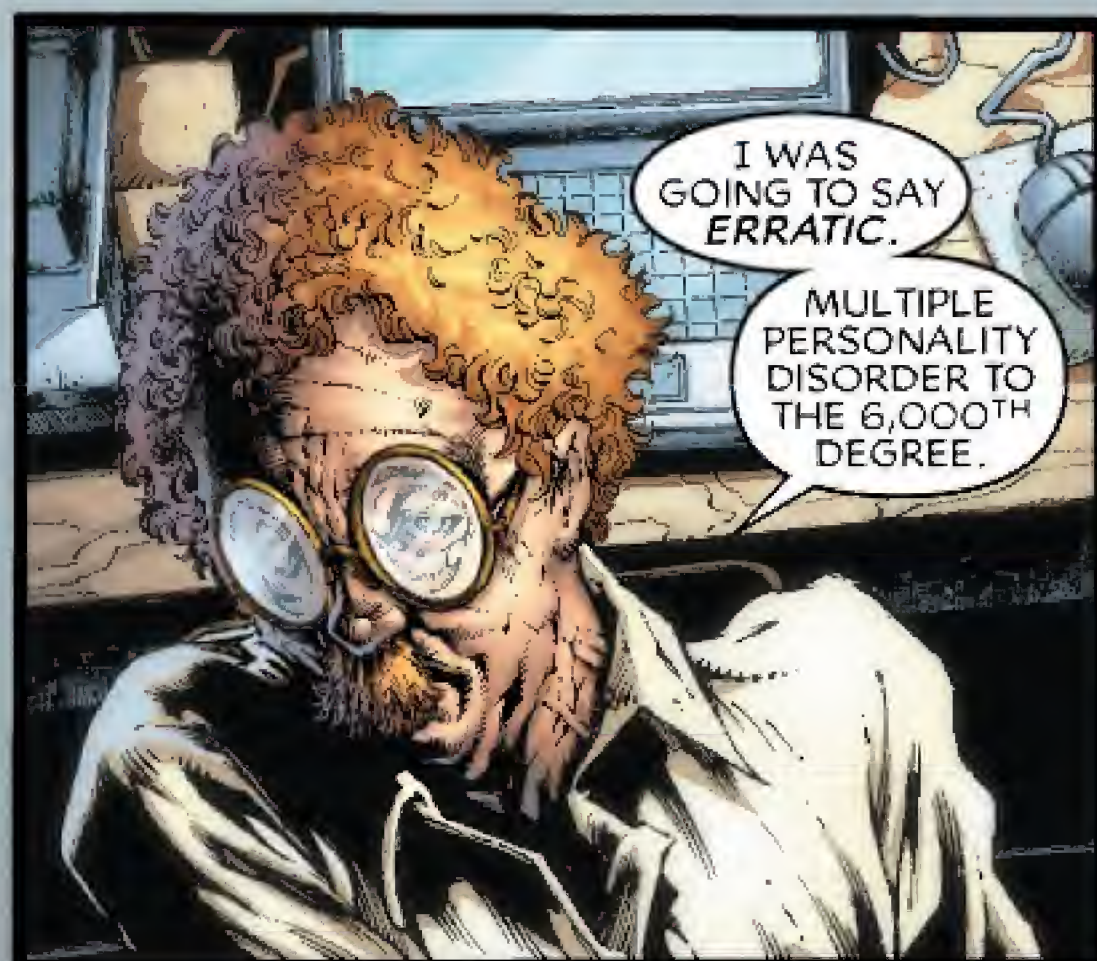
HE DIDN'T
REALIZE I WAS
SO MUCH
MORE.



IT
EXPLAINS
WHY YOUR
MEMORIES
ARE SO
CONFUSED.
WHY YOUR
BEHAVIOR
IS SO...

SO
WHAT?

WHY YOU
BEHAVE LIKE AN
ASSHOLE.



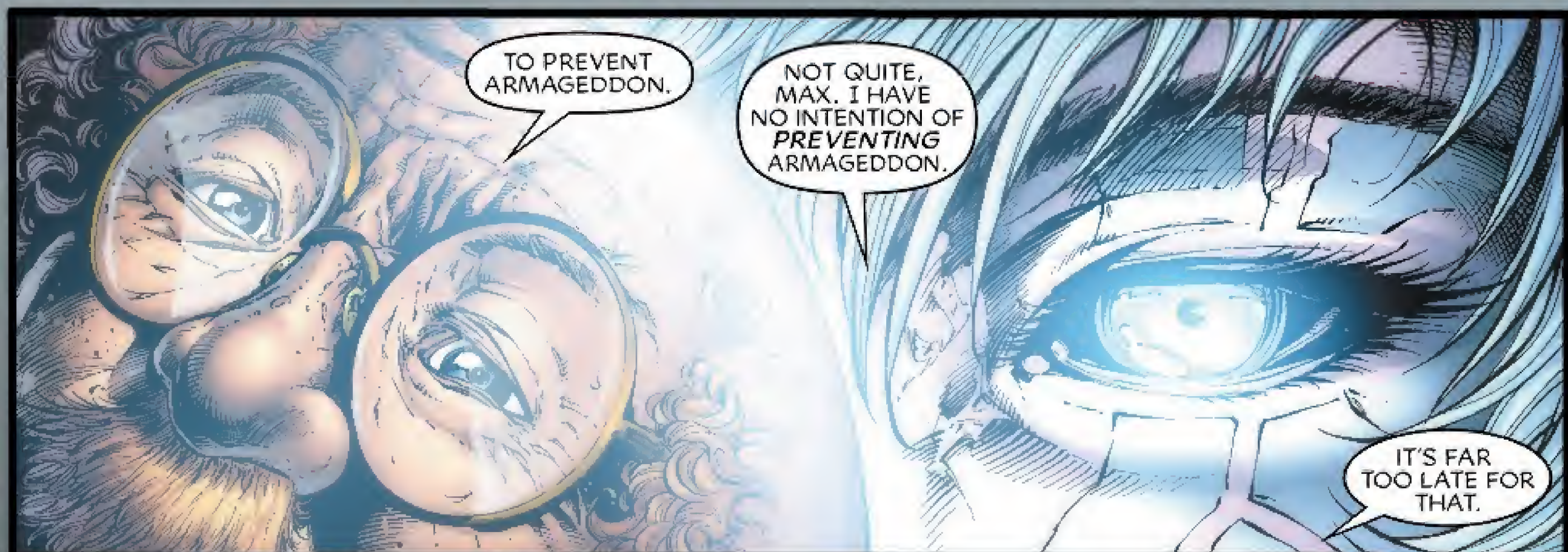
I WAS
GOING TO SAY
ERRATIC.

MULTIPLE
PERSONALITY
DISORDER TO
THE 6,000TH
DEGREE.



MAN OF
MIRACLES DID THIS!
IT HAD TO BE HIM.
BUT WHY?

I ASSUME TO
ENABLE YOU TO
DO EXACTLY WHAT
YOU'RE DOING. TO GO
UP AGAINST HEAVEN
AND HELL.



TO PREVENT
ARMAGEDDON.

NOT QUITE,
MAX. I HAVE
NO INTENTION OF
PREVENTING
ARMAGEDDON.

IT'S FAR
TOO LATE FOR
THAT.



FOR THOUSANDS
OF YEARS MANKIND
HAS FOLLOWED ITS CHAOTIC
PATH. BUILDING CITIES,
FIGHTING WARS. CREATING
WITH ONE HAND, **DESTROYING**
WITH THE OTHER, IN THE BELIEF
THAT ALL FUTURES WERE
POSSIBLE.



AND YET
IN EVERY CULTURE
THERE IS A MYTH OF
THE END OF TIMES--THE
FINAL **DESTRUCTION**
OF THE HUMAN
RACE.



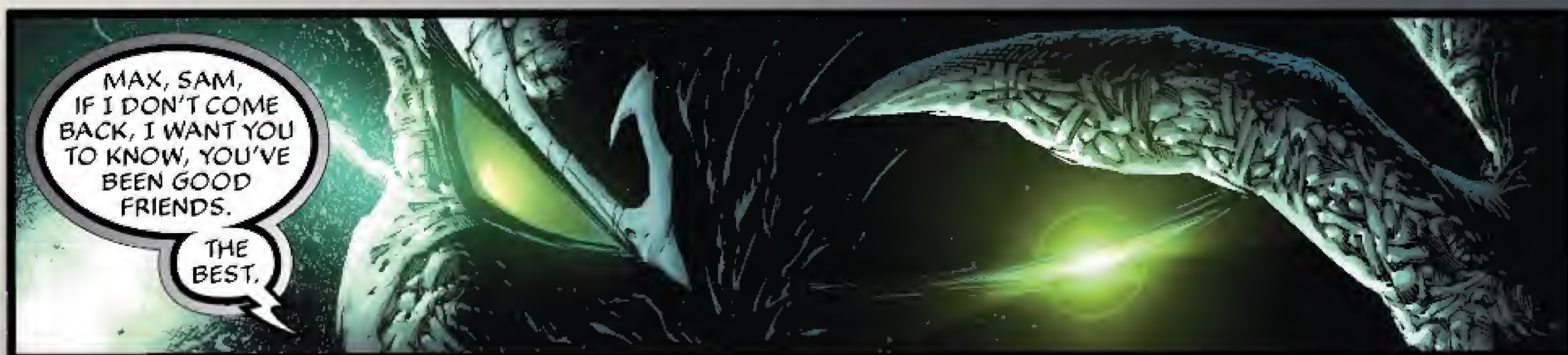
SOMEWHERE
IN EVERY HUMAN
CONSCIOUSNESS THERE IS THE
AWARENESS THAT ALL THINGS
MUST **END**.























ANOTHER
ONE?
WHO
ARE
YOU?

DON'T YOU
RECOGNIZE
ME?



I AM
YOUR
FAITHFUL
SERVANT,
ZERA.



JAKE,
WHO IS
SHE?

ZERA.
YES, I
REMEMBER
NOW...

...AND MY
NAME ISN'T
JAKE.



TO BE CONTINUED:



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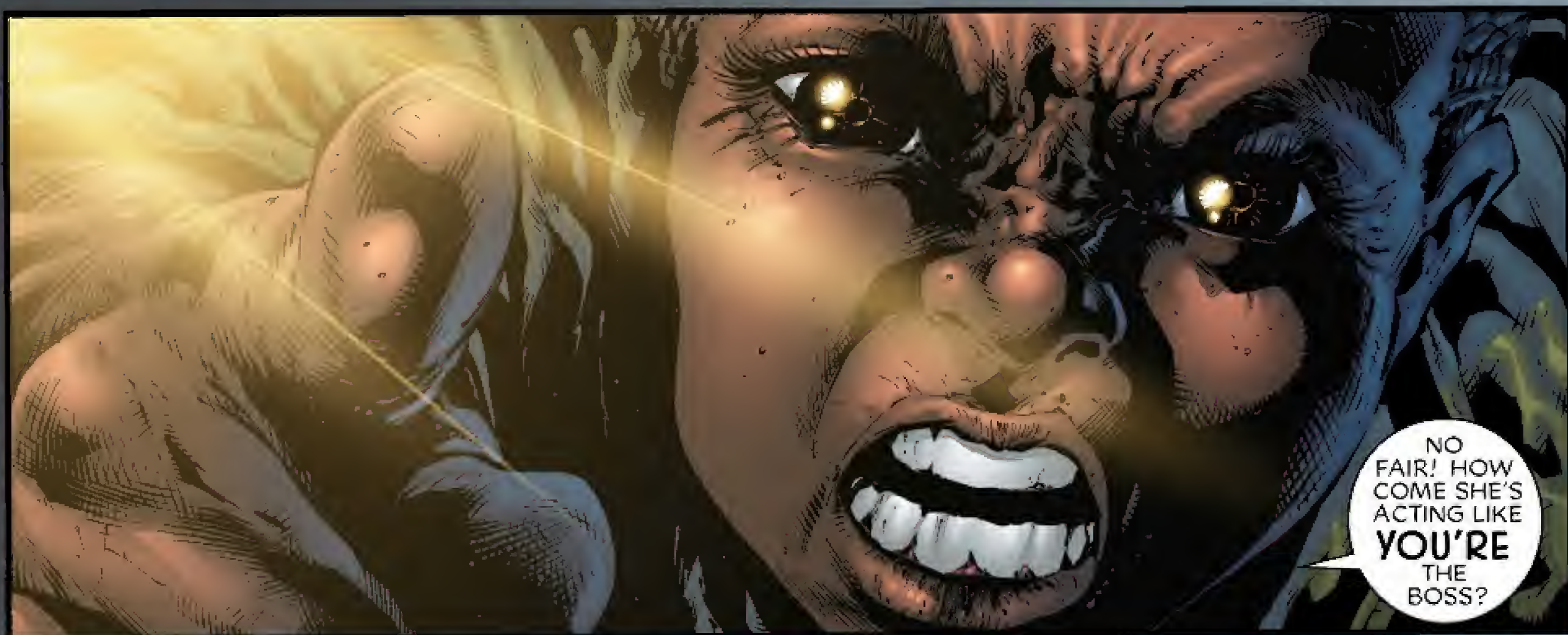


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NO
FAIR! HOW
COME SHE'S
ACTING LIKE
YOU'RE
THE
BOSS?



BECAUSE
I AM.

IT'S ALL COME
BACK. I REMEMBER
EVERYTHING.

I'M THE
LORD OF ALL
CREATION AND
SHE IS MY ANGEL,
ZERA
OF THE
SERAPHIM.

NO
NO NO
NO.



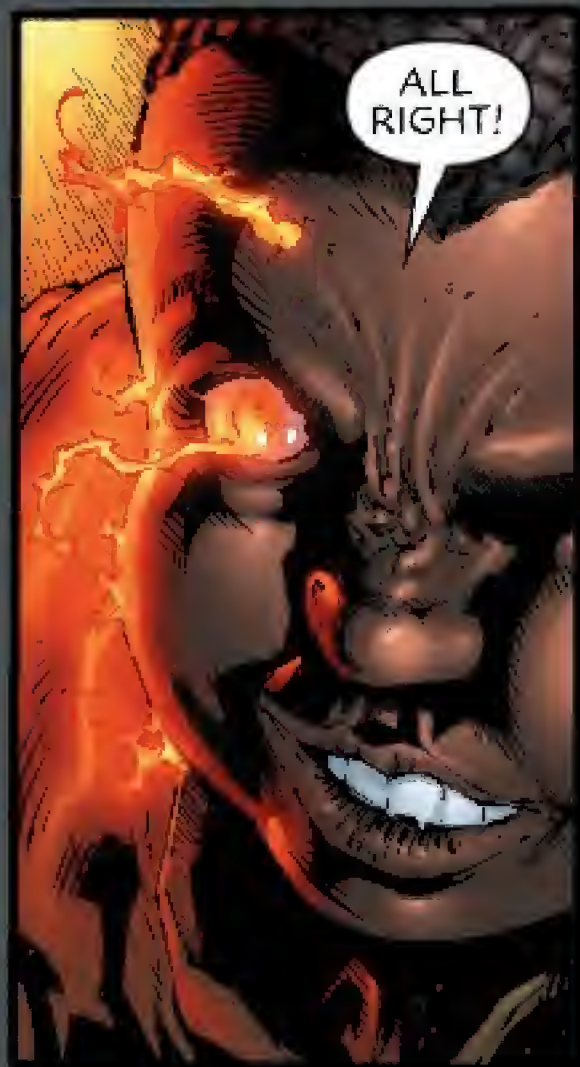


OKAY
BIG MAN.
IF YOU **ARE**
GOD...

...THEN
WHO THE
HELL AM
I??!



OH.



ALL
RIGHT!



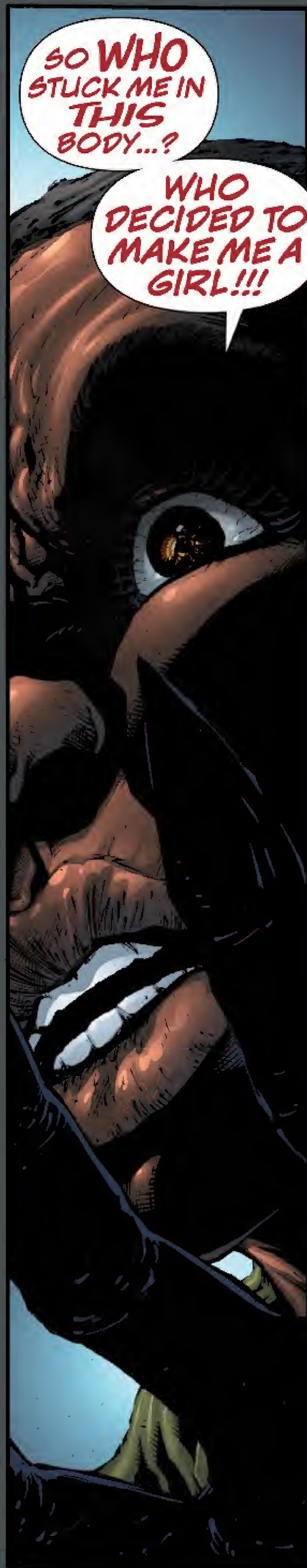
THE
MEMORIES
FLOOD
BACK LIKE
A RIPTIDE.

SHE IS
LORD OF
LIGHT AND
PRINCE OF
DARKNESS,
SHAITAN,
ABADDON,
OLD NICK.
SHE IS
BEELZEBUB,
LORD OF
FLIES, HIS
SATANIC
MAJESTY---

SATAN!

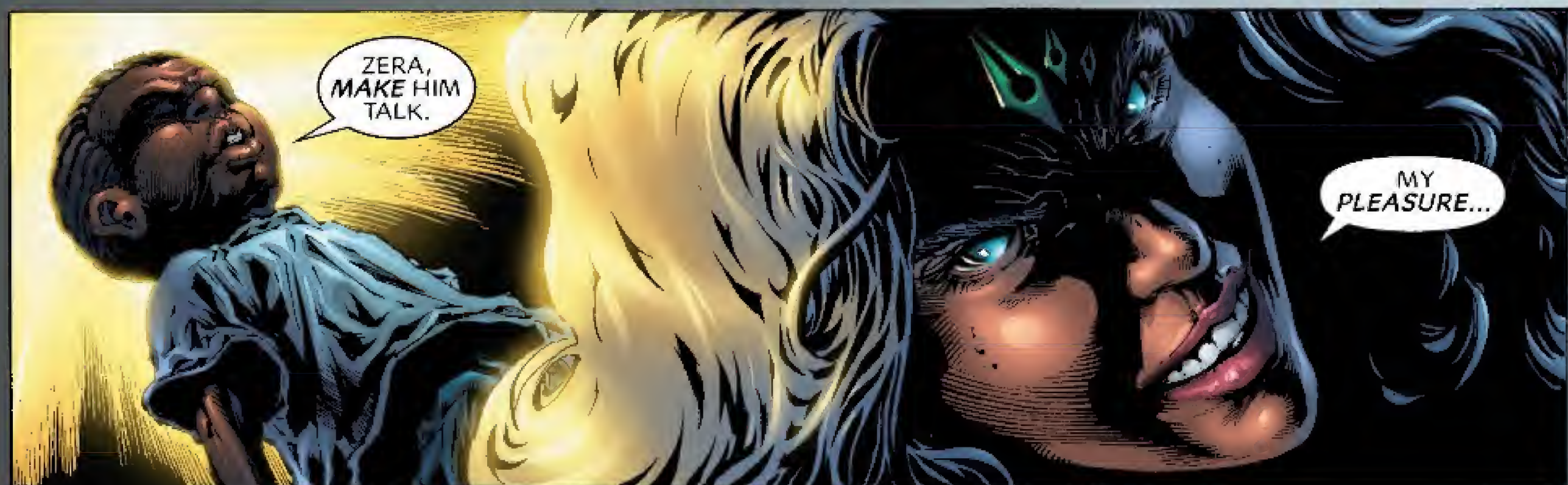
**I'M
SATAN!**

NATIONS
TREMBLE
AT MY
NAME!



**SO WHO
STUCK ME IN
THIS
BODY...?**

**WHO
DECIDED TO
MAKE ME A
GIRL!!!**





IT'S TOO LONG SINCE I FACED A WORTHY ADVERSARY!





I ENTRUSTED
THIS WORLD TO YOU.
LOOK WHAT YOU'VE
DONE TO IT!

IT WAS *HIM*!
THE PLAGUES
AND THE GREAT
FLOOD, SODOM
AND GOMORRAH.
HE DID ALL
THAT.

SHE'S A *LIAR*!
THE HUMANS WERE
MINE. THEY DID WHAT I
TOLD THEM UNTIL *SHE*
INTERFERED.

IT'S ALL
HER
FAULT.

SILENCE.



STAY THERE
UNTIL I'M READY TO
DEAL WITH YOU.



COME HERE
AL
SIMMONS.

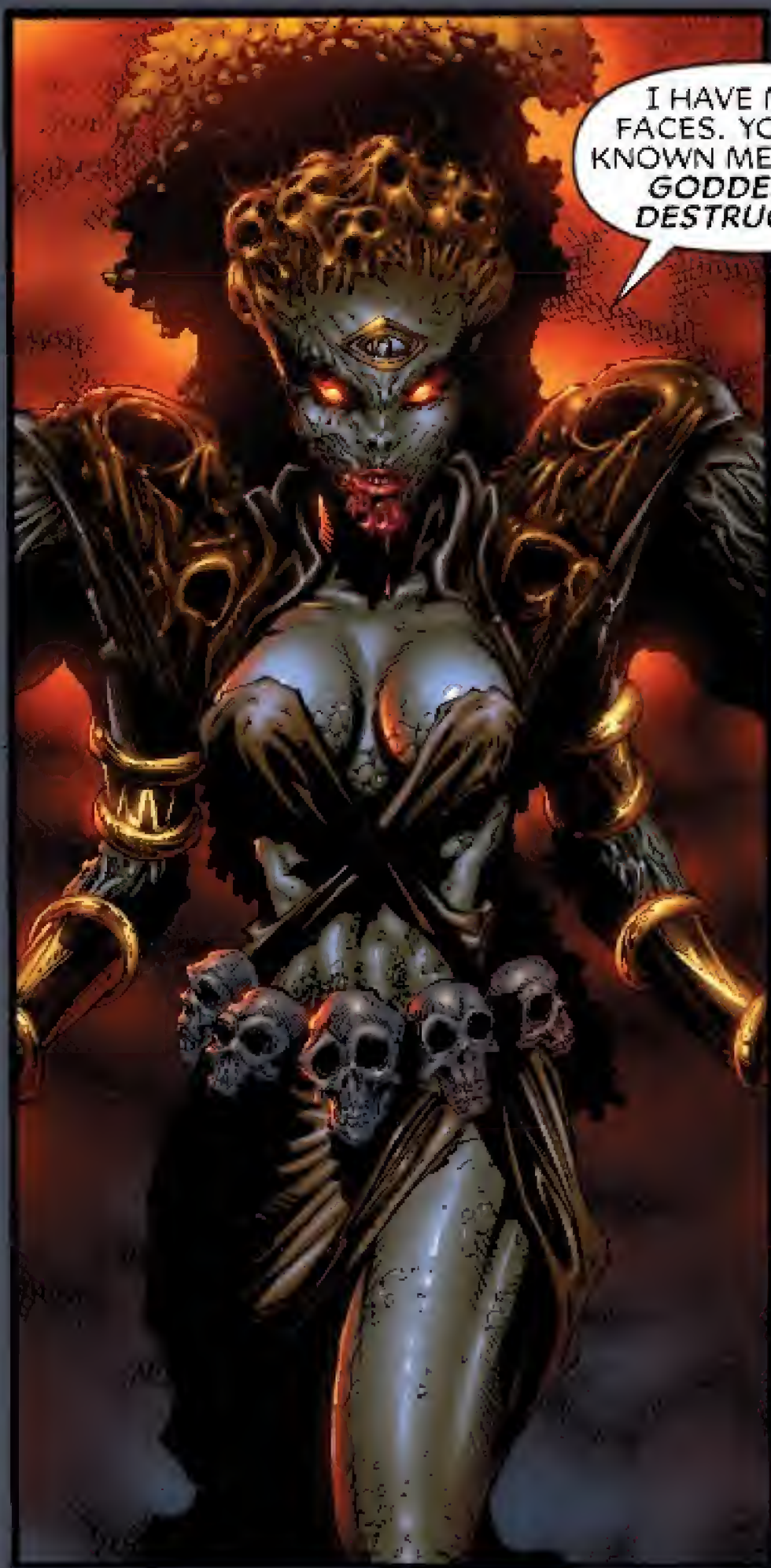


IT'S
TIME YOU
LEARNED
THE
TRUTH.



DO
YOU
KNOW
ME?

WHY DON'T
YOU JUST CUT THE
CRAP AND TELL ME
WHO YOU ARE!



I HAVE MANY
FACES. YOU HAVE
KNOWN ME AS KALI,
GODDESS OF
DESTRUCTION.



AS THE KEEPER
OF THE
GREENWORLD.



AS THE
MAN OF
MIRACLES.



MY CHILDREN
CALL ME *MOTHER*, BUT
I AM BEYOND MALE
AND FEMALE.

THERE IS
NO GREATER
POWER THAN
ME...

I AM THE
CREATOR OF THE
UNIVERSE AND THE
DESTROYER OF
WORLDS.



I HAVE MORE CHILDREN THAN YOUR LANGUAGE CAN NUMBER. AND TO EACH OF THEM I GIVE WORLDS TO MOULD IN WHATEVER WAY THEY DESIRE.

I GAVE THE EARTH TO THOSE YOU KNOW AS GOD AND SATAN, AND THEY MADE IT THEIR PLAYGROUND.

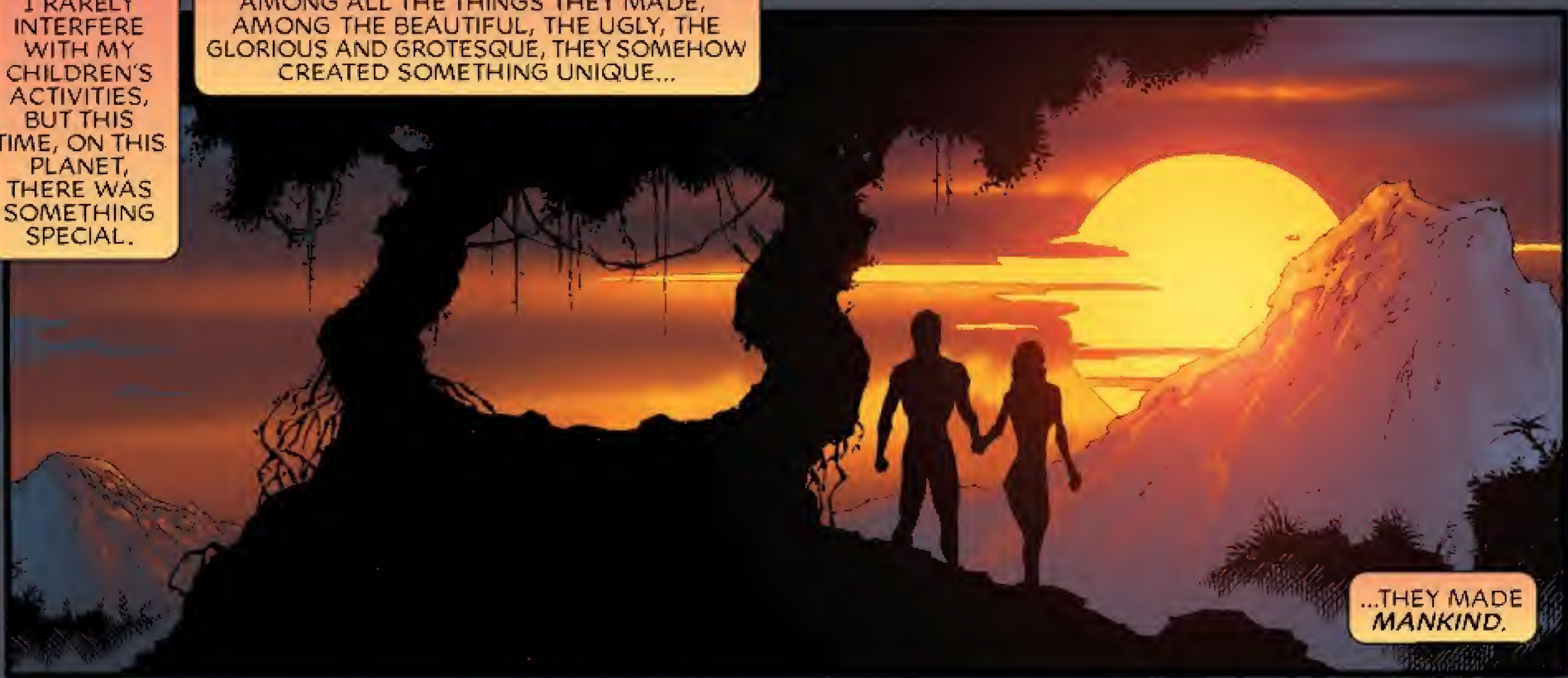
OF ALL MY OFFSPRING THEY ARE MY MOST BITTER *DISAPPOINTMENT*. THEY SQUANDERED THEIR TALENTS IN *ENDLESS* SQUABBLING.

WHATEVER ONE CREATED, THE OTHER DESTROYED.

OVER THE MILLENNIA THEIR BICKERING GREW INTO *HATRED* AND IN THE END THEY DECLARED WAR ON ONE ANOTHER.

I RARELY INTERFERE WITH MY CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES, BUT THIS TIME, ON THIS PLANET, THERE WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL.

AMONG ALL THE THINGS THEY MADE, AMONG THE BEAUTIFUL, THE UGLY, THE GLORIOUS AND GROTESQUE, THEY SOMEHOW CREATED SOMETHING UNIQUE...



...THEY MADE MANKIND.

GOD CREATED THE HUMAN RACE TO BE HIS LAPDOGS, BUT IT WAS SATAN WHO MADE THEM WHOLE, WHEN HE GAVE THEM THE TAINTED GIFT OF FREE WILL.



HUMAN BEINGS BECAME THEIR PLAYTHINGS, TO USE AND ABANDON ACCORDING TO THEIR MOODS.

IN DEATH THEY ARE RAISED TO JOIN THE ARMIES OF HEAVEN AND HELL, RANDOMLY SELECTED PUPPETS IN A WAR THAT WILL REACH ITS CLIMAX IN ARMAGEDDON.

FINALLY I INTERVENED.
I REMOVED MY CHILDREN
FROM THEIR KINGDOMS.

HEAVEN AND
HELL WERE
LEFT TO FEND
FOR
THEMSELVES.

WHILE
THEIR
MASTERS
SLEPT IN A
FORGOTTEN
CORNER
OF THE
UNIVERSE,
I LEARNED
FOR
MYSELF
WHAT IT IS
TO BE
HUMAN.

I CAME AMONG MANKIND AS ONE OF
YOU, SO THAT I COULD SHOW YOU THE
WAY OF PEACE AND TOLERANCE.

BUT MY
TEACHINGS
WERE
CORRUPTED.
EVEN IN
THEIR
ABSENCE THE
ACOLYTES
OF MY
WAYWARD
CHILDREN
CONTINUED
TO POISON
THE WORLD
WITH THEIR
DESTRUCTIVE
DOGMAS.

ALTHOUGH THEY WERE
LEADERLESS, THE FORCES OF
HEAVEN AND HELL STILL MOVED
TOWARDS THE FINAL CONFLICT
THAT WILL LEAVE THIS WORLD
A WASTELAND.

I KNOW NOW THAT ARMAGEDDON IS INEVITABLE BUT I WANTED MANKIND TO HAVE A *CHANCE* TO SURVIVE, SO WHEN MALEBOLGIA RESURRECTED AL SIMMONS TO BECOME HIS HELLSPAWN I STEPPED IN ONCE MORE.



I TOOK THE SOULS OF ALL THOSE WHO DIED THAT HOUR AND PRESERVED EACH ONE DEEP IN THE HEART OF THE HELLSPAWN.

THAT IS WHY MALEBOLGIA COULD NEVER BEND YOU TO HIS WILL. YOU HAVE BECOME A FORCE MORE POWERFUL THAN HE EVER WAS.



NICE STORY, BUT IT DOESN'T EXPLAIN THE TWINS.

I COULD NOT LEAVE THEM IN EXILE FOREVER. IN SPITE OF THEIR FAULTS THEY ARE STILL *MY CHILDREN*.

SO I BROUGHT THEM *BACK*, BUT I DID NOT RESTORE THEM TO THEIR KINGDOMS.

I MADE THEM *HUMAN*.



I HOPED THAT BY LEARNING WHAT IT IS TO LIVE AS MORTALS, TO BE SURROUNDED BY THE LOVE OF A FAMILY, THEY MIGHT *CHANGE*.





INSTEAD, THEIR **TRUE NATURE** OVERWHELMED THEM. YOU HAVE SEEN HOW THEIR GAMES HAVE BEEN REFLECTED IN THE DISASTERS OVERTAKING THE EARTH.



THERE IS NO ESCAPING THIS WORLD'S DESTINY. ARMAGEDDON MUST HAPPEN.

THAT'S **BULLSHIT!** IF YOU HAVE ABSOLUTE POWER, YOU CAN STOP IT.

IF YOU REALLY **WANT** TO SAVE MANKIND-



-THEN MANKIND MUST PROVE ITSELF WORTH SAVING.

YOU AL SIMMONS, TOGETHER WITH THE THOUSANDS WHO LIVE INSIDE YOU, REPRESENT THE **POTENTIAL** OF YOUR SPECIES. YOU COULD BECOME THE **EQUAL** OF GOD AND SATAN. BUT I WILL NOT HAND THAT POWER TO YOU AS A GIFT.

THERE IS ONE **LAST TRIAL** YOU MUST UNDERGO.





AND YOU.
BEFORE I SEND YOU
BACK TO YOUR DOMAINS,
**WHAT DO YOU HAVE
TO SAY FOR
YOURSELVES?**

WHAT DO
YOU WANT?
"SORRY FOR BEING
A BAD BOY?"

WE'RE
WHAT **YOU**
MADE US.

YEAH, SO
WHY DON'T
YOU GIVE US
BACK OUR
BODIES SO
WE CAN GET
ON WITH
UNFINISHED
BUSINESS.



RIGHT! GIVE THE
GIRLY-BOY BACK HIS
HORNS SO I CAN RIP 'EM OFF
AND SHOVE THEM WHERE
**THE SUN DON'T
SHINE!**



YOU HEAR THEM?
EVEN WITH THEIR MEMORIES
RESTORED, THEY BEHAVE
LIKE CHILDREN.

SO GIVE
THEM A SPANKING
AND GIVE THIS PLANET
BACK TO THE HUMAN
RACE.

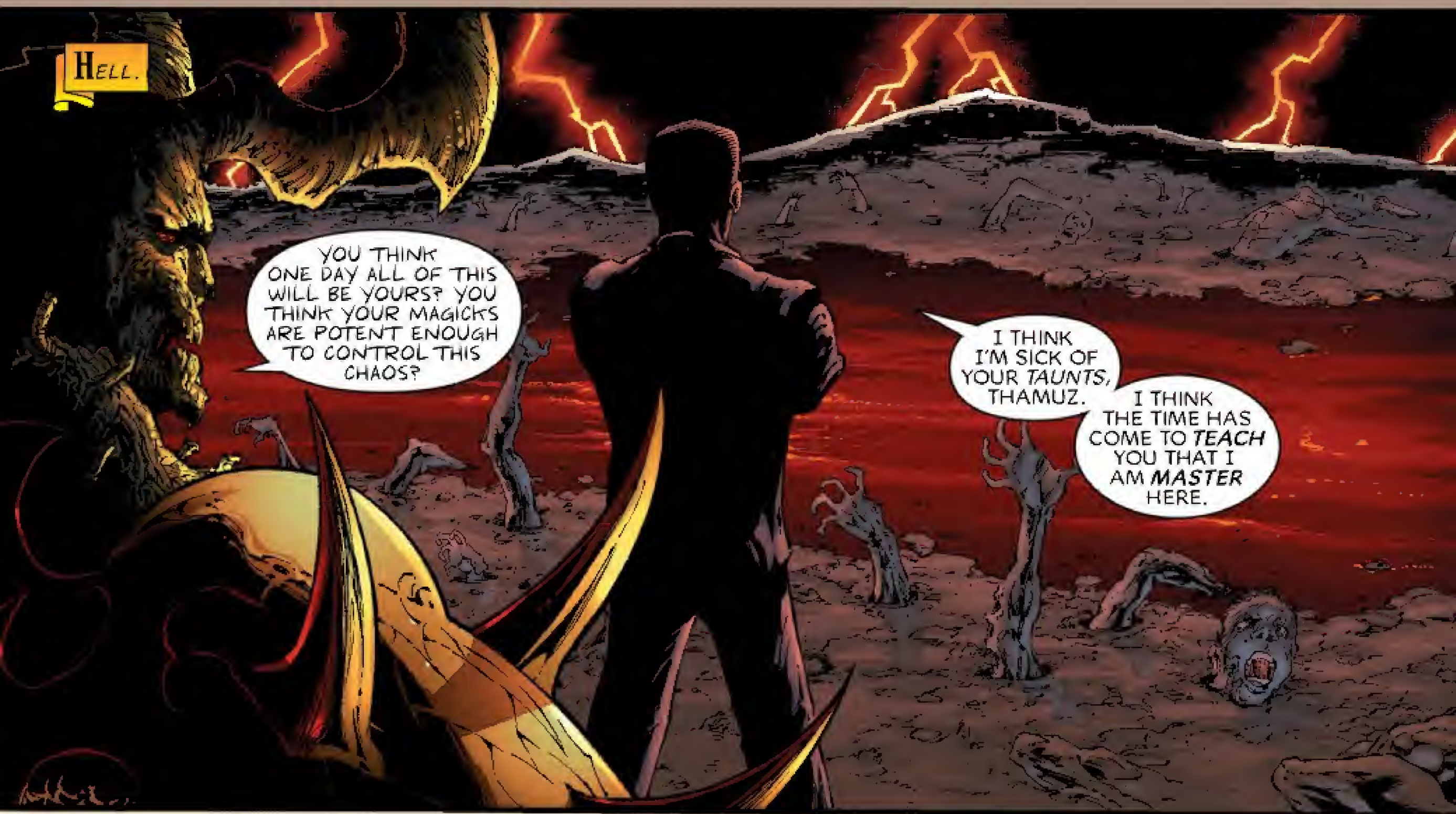


I TELL YOU, I CAN'T
DO THAT. THERE ARE LAWS
BY WHICH THE UNIVERSE IS
ORDERED. THESE RULES
MUST BE OBEYED.

WHY?



BECAUSE
I MADE
THEM.



YOU THINK
ONE DAY ALL OF THIS
WILL BE YOURS? YOU
THINK YOUR MAGICKS
ARE POTENT ENOUGH
TO CONTROL THIS
CHAOS?

I THINK
I'M SICK OF
YOUR TAUNTS,
THAMUZ.

I THINK
THE TIME HAS
COME TO **TEACH**
YOU THAT I
AM **MASTER**
HERE.



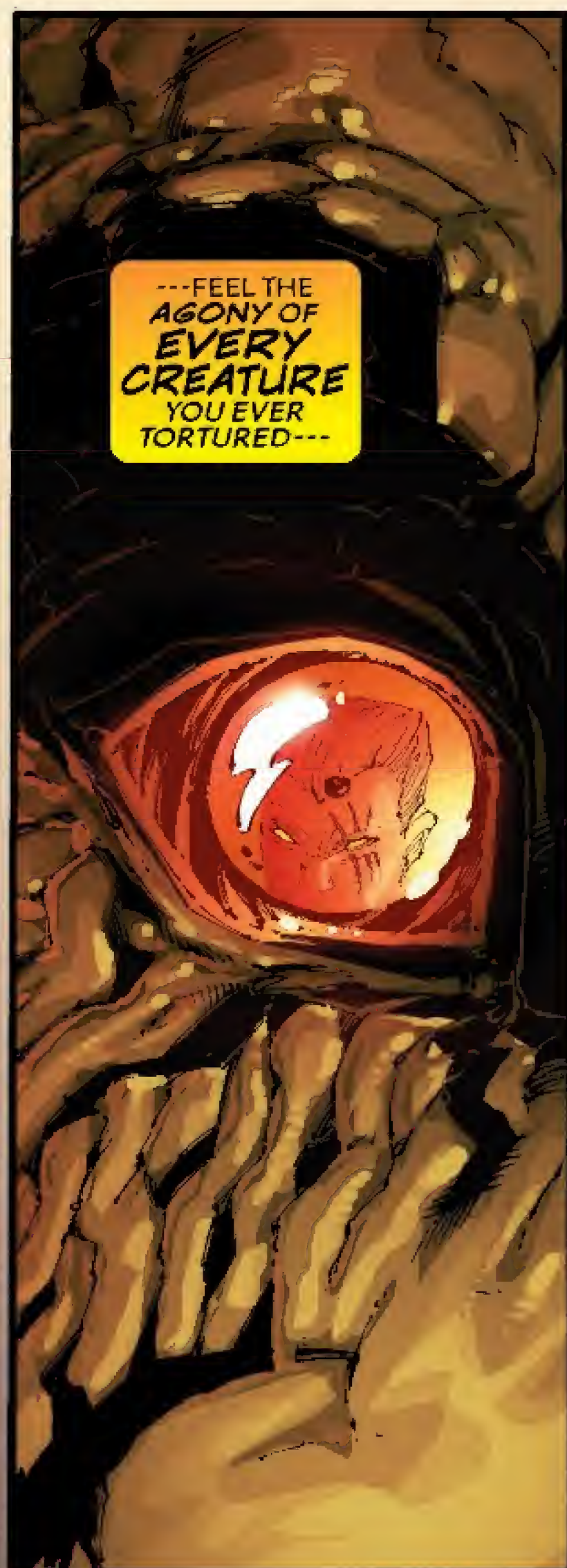
HOW MANY
HAVE SUFFERED
TORTURE AT
YOUR HANDS?

THOUSANDS?
**TENS OF
THOUSANDS?**



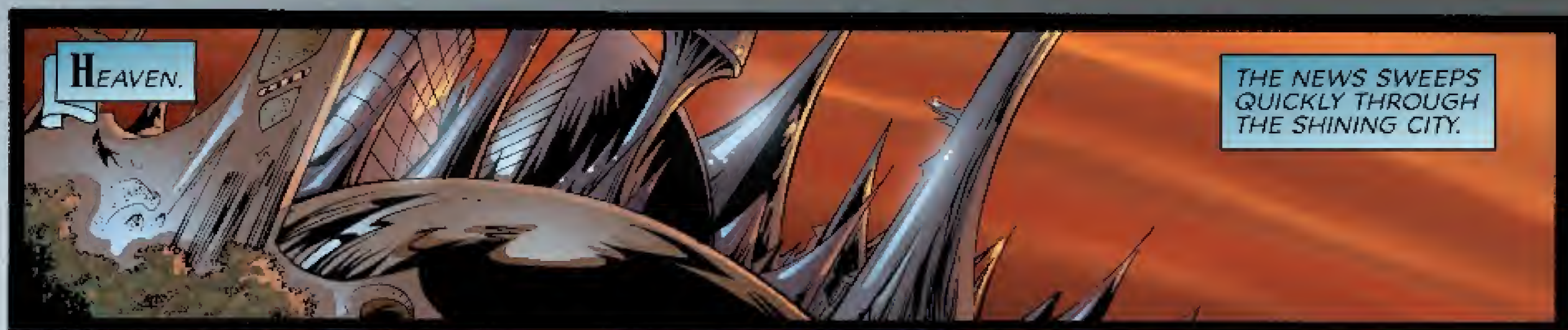
YOU REVEL IN
PAIN. I'LL SHOW
YOU PAIN BEYOND
ANYTHING YOU
CAN IMAGINE.

FEEL IT
THAMUZ---



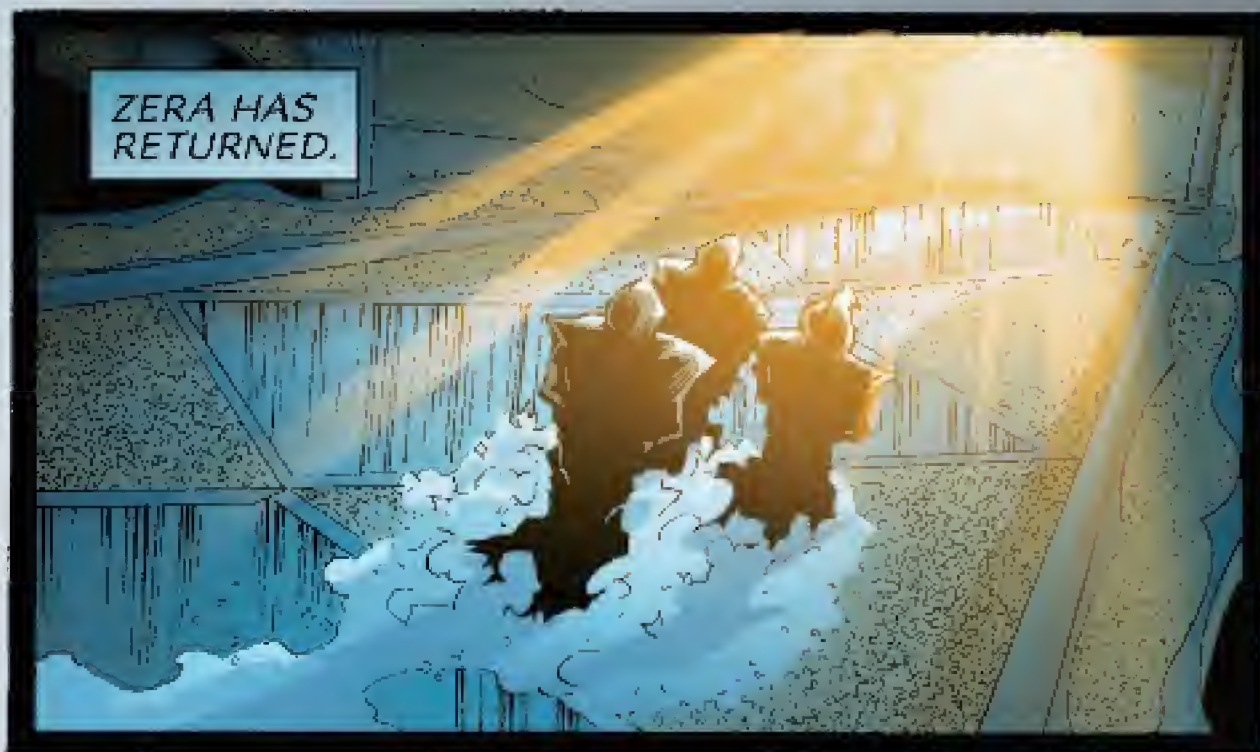
---FEEL THE
AGONY OF
**EVERY
CREATURE**
YOU EVER
TORTURED---





HEAVEN.

THE NEWS SWEEPS QUICKLY THROUGH THE SHINING CITY.



ZERA HAS RETURNED.

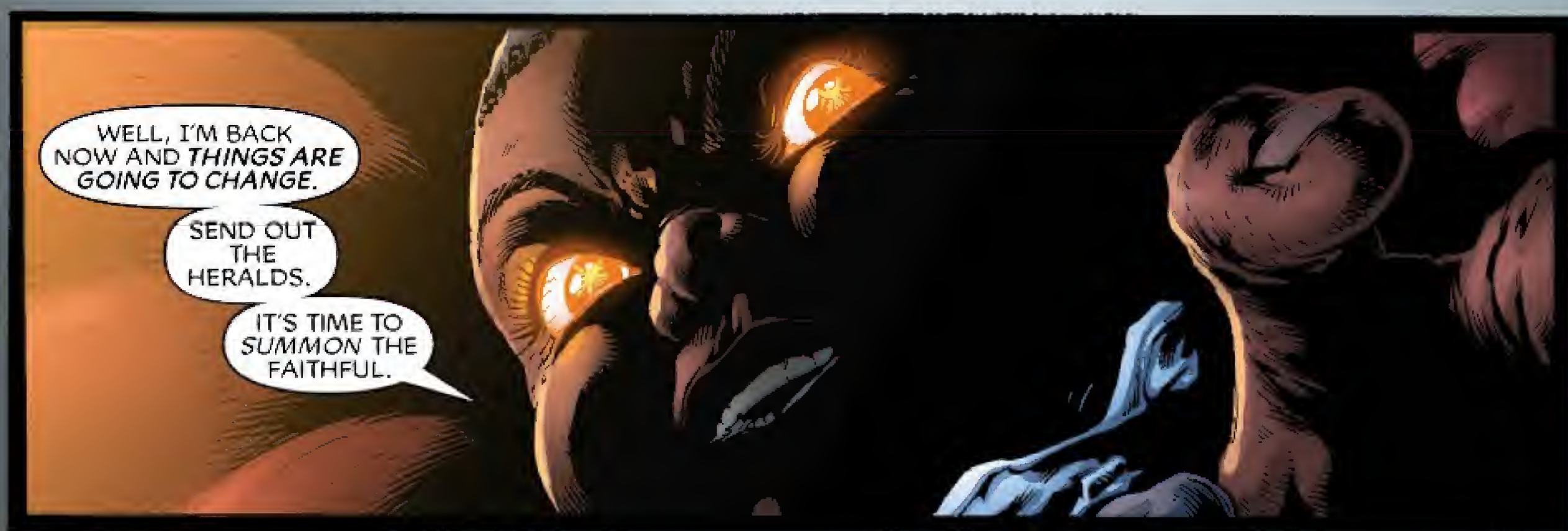


YOU LOOK SURPRISED, SISTERS. DIDN'T I TELL YOU I WOULD FIND OUR LORD?

DON'T BE FOOLED BY THE APPEARANCE. IT'S A TEMPORARY THING.

ZERA TELLS ME YOU'VE BEEN LETTING THINGS SLIDE WHILE I'VE BEEN GONE.

YOU LET THE FORGOTTEN INTO HEAVEN AND THEY SLAUGHTERED MY ANGELS, WHILE HELL GROWS STRONGER EVERY DAY.



WELL, I'M BACK NOW AND *THINGS ARE* GOING TO CHANGE.

SEND OUT THE HERALDS.

IT'S TIME TO SUMMON THE FAITHFUL.





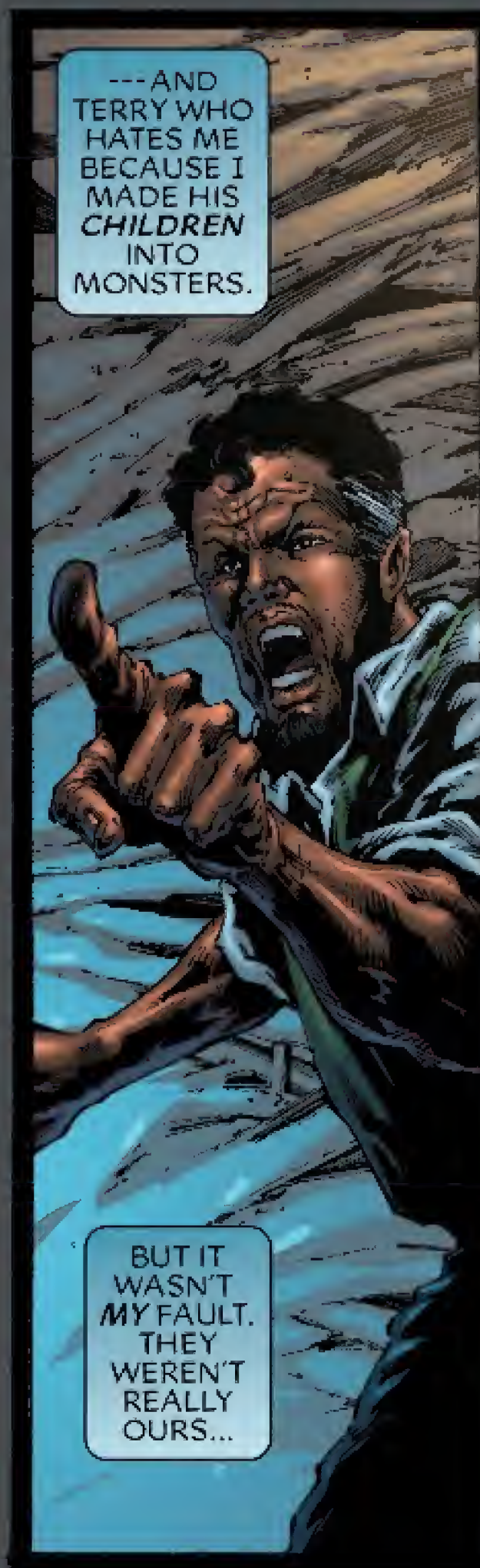
I CAN'T
STAND
THIS---

---JUST
TOO TIRED
TO THINK.



LOOK AT
THEM
ARGUING.
MY TWO
HUSBANDS.

THE DEAD ONE
WHO LOVES ME---



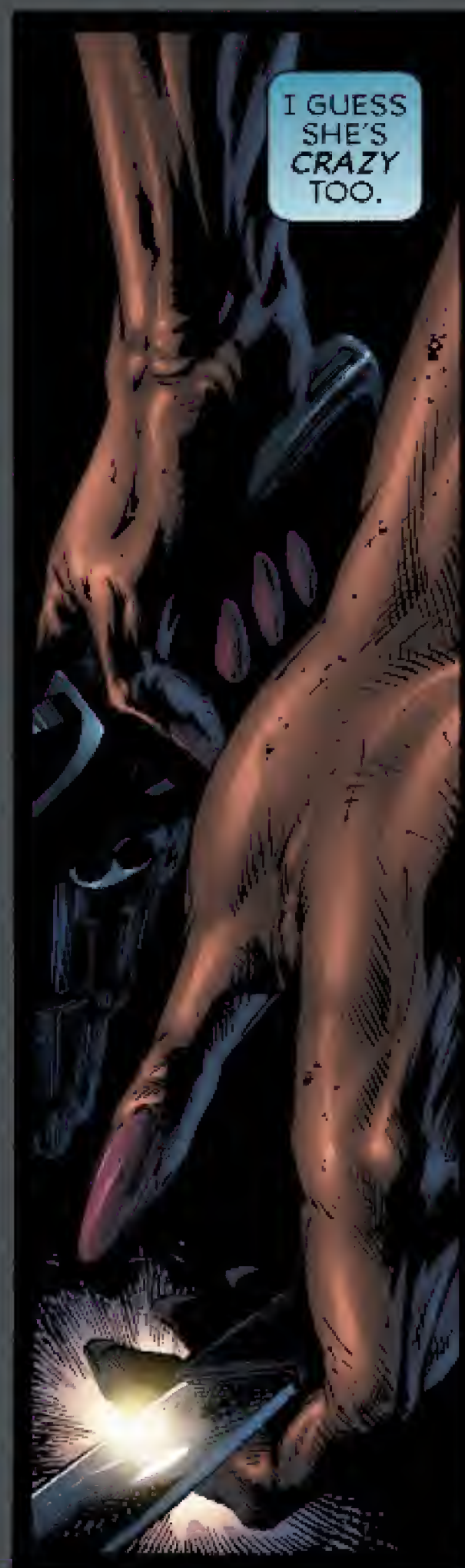
---AND
TERRY WHO
HATES ME
BECAUSE I
MADE HIS
CHILDREN
INTO
MONSTERS.

BUT IT
WASN'T
MY FAULT.
THEY
WEREN'T
REALLY
OURS...



THEY WERE *HERS*.
HER CRAZY
MONSTER BABIES.

SHE SAYS THE
TWINNS ARE GOD
AND SATAN.



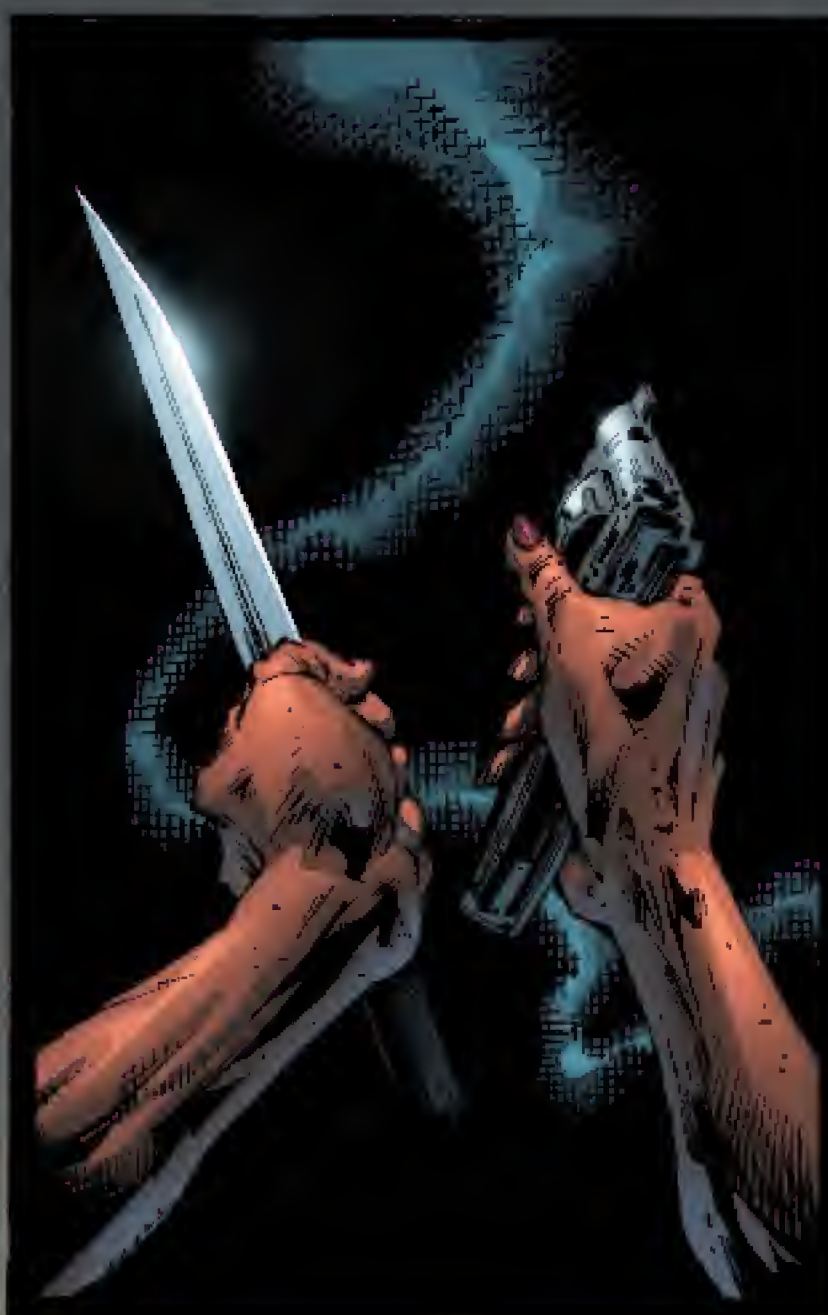
I GUESS
SHE'S
CRAZY
TOO.



MOM?
ARE
YOU
OKAY?

OKAY?
YES,
OF COURSE.
I'M JUST
CLEARING
UP.

IT'S
SUCH A
MESS IN
HERE.



...I'M
JUST SO
TIRED...



...I'M SO
SORRY...





TO BE CONTINUED...



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FIVE MINUTES AGO.

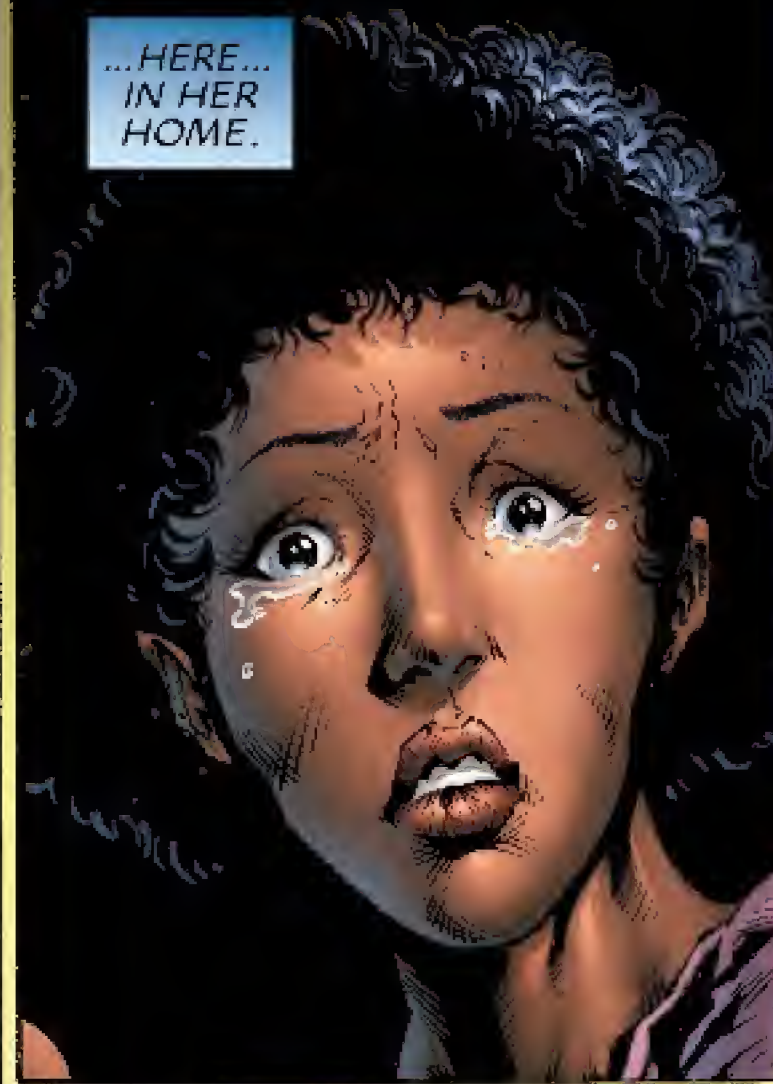
THIS IS THE
MOMENT
WHEN IT
ALL BECAME
TOO MUCH
FOR HER.



THE ANGEL
WARRIOR,
ZERA, HAS
COME
LOOKING
FOR GOD...



...HERE...
IN HER
HOME.



IT TURNS
OUT HER
SON JAKE
IS THE
MISSING
DEITY AND
HIS TWIN
SISTER IS
THE DEVIL.



SHE GAVE
BIRTH TO
THEM, BUT
SHE ISN'T
THEIR REAL
MOTHER.



THIS IS THEIR
MOTHER...
THIS THING
THAT IS BOTH
MALE AND
FEMALE...
THE CREATOR
OF THE
UNIVERSE.



WANDA
HAS BEEN
FIGHTING
TO KEEP
HER SANITY
FOR A VERY
LONG TIME...



...SINCE THE MAN
SHE LOVED CAME
BACK FROM THE
GRAVE...



THIS IS THE MOMENT
SHE FINALLY GAVE UP.

THE EXACT
MOMENT WHEN
SHE LOST HER
MIND...





LOOK AT HER. SHE'S MAGNIFICENT ISN'T SHE? EVERY SINEW STRAINING FOR BATTLE. SHE IS ACHING TO PROVE HERSELF AGAINST YOU.

SO WHY DONCH'A LET HER GET ON WITH IT? UNFREEZE HER AND LET'S SEE WHAT SHE DOES TO THE HELLSPAWN IN A FAIR FIGHT!



THAT'S ENOUGH! GET OUT OF MY SIGHT, BOTH OF YOU. GO AND PREPARE YOUR ARMIES FOR YOUR WRETCHED WAR.

NO! YOU CAN'T--!

TERRY, THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO. THOSE ARE NOT YOUR CHILDREN.

THEY NEVER WERE.

DAMMIT AL! THIS IS ALL DOWN TO YOU!

WE HAD A GOOD LIFE UNTIL YOU CAME BACK INTO IT.



PLEASE... PLEASE STOP THIS...



WHY THE HELL COULDN'T YOU STAY DEAD AND BURIED?



WHAT WAS IT,
SOME KIND OF ELABORATE
REVENGE? YOUR BEST FRIEND
MARRIES YOUR WIFE AND YOU
CAN'T STAND IT?

YOU CAN'T
STAND THAT
I MADE WANDA
HAPPIER THAN
YOU EVER
COULD!



WELL
CONGRATULATIONS
OLD BUDDY! YOU DID
IT! YOU DESTROYED
MY LIFE!



I AM
THIS
CLOSE TO
LOSING MY
FREAKING
MIND...

DADDY...



I THINK
SOMETHING'S
WRONG WITH
MOMMY.



SHE
TOOK
THE
GUN.

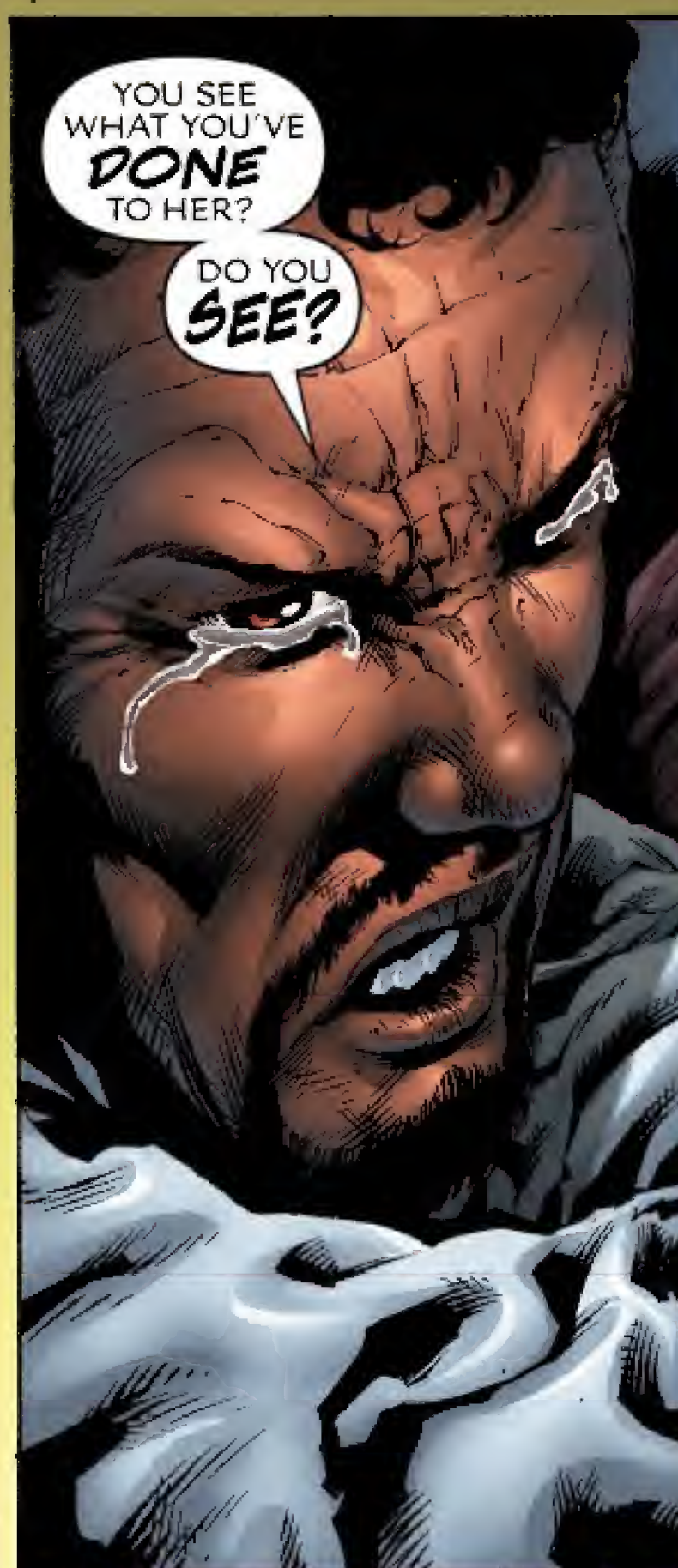
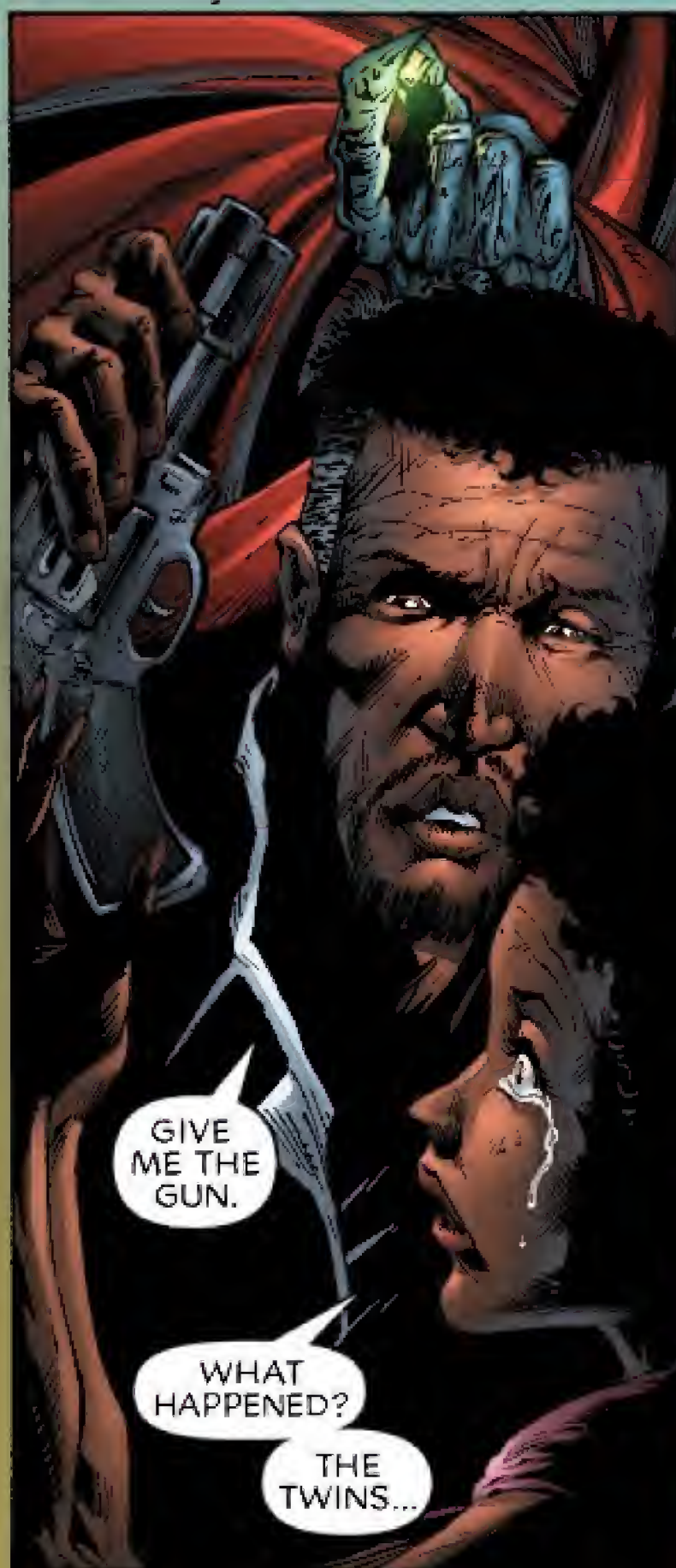
WANDA!

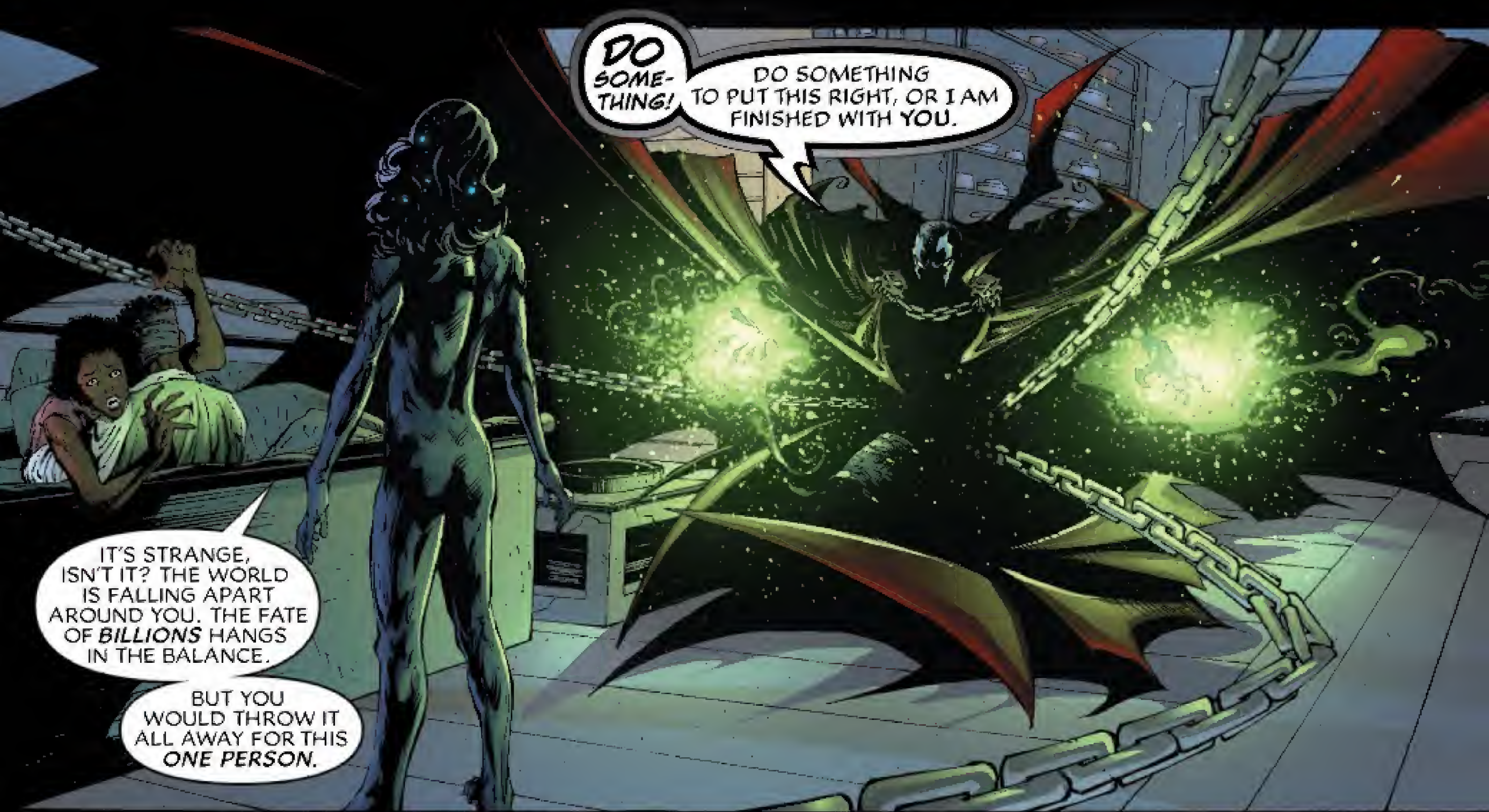




...RIGHT AFTER HE PULLED THE TRIGGER...







DO
SOME-
THING!

DO SOMETHING
TO PUT THIS RIGHT, OR I AM
FINISHED WITH YOU.

IT'S STRANGE,
ISN'T IT? THE WORLD
IS FALLING APART
AROUND YOU. THE FATE
OF *BILLIONS* HANGS
IN THE BALANCE.

BUT YOU
WOULD THROW IT
ALL AWAY FOR THIS
ONE PERSON.



DAMN'
RIGHT.



I WAS
RIGHT
ABOUT
YOU,
WASN'T
I?

JUST
DO IT.



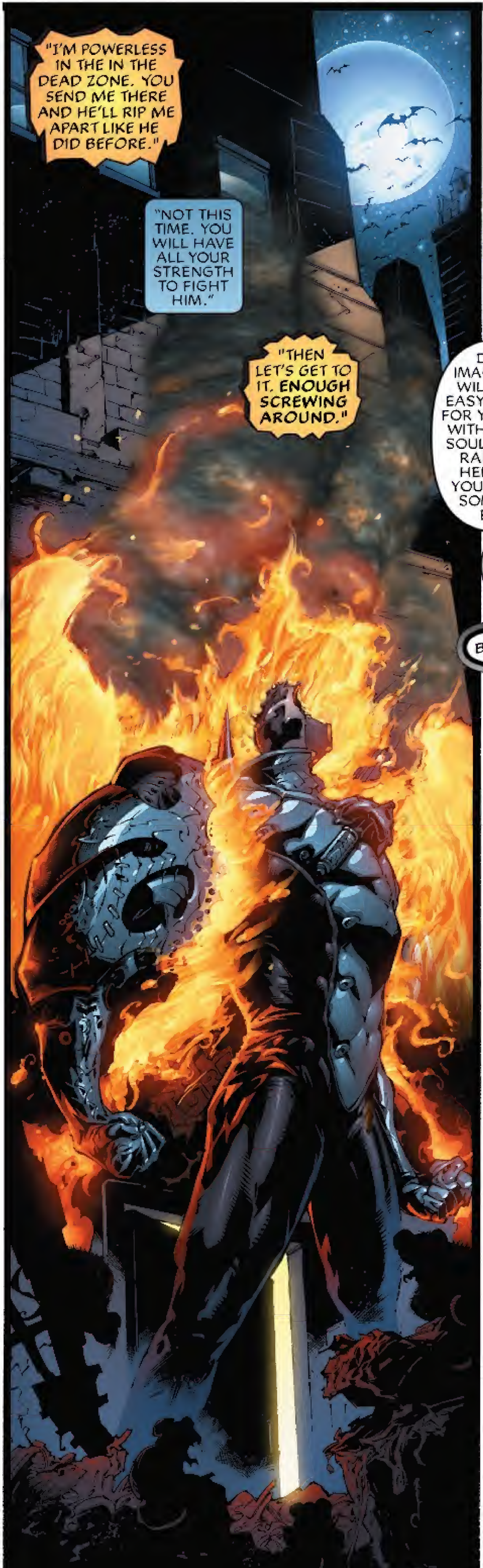
WANDA,
LOOK AT
ME.



FORGET.







"I'M POWERLESS IN THE IN THE DEAD ZONE. YOU SEND ME THERE AND HE'LL RIP ME APART LIKE HE DID BEFORE."

"NOT THIS TIME. YOU WILL HAVE ALL YOUR STRENGTH TO FIGHT HIM."

"THEN LET'S GET TO IT. ENOUGH SCREWING AROUND."

DON'T IMAGINE THIS WILL BE AN EASY VICTORY FOR YOU. EVEN WITH ALL THE SOULS I HAVE RAISED TO HELP YOU. YOU'LL NEED SOMEONE ELSE.

DO YOU REMEMBER **BOOTSY'S** PROPHECY?

BOOTSY?

"THE HOMELESS BUM WHO TURNED OUT TO BE AN ANGEL."

"LAST I SAW HIM, HE WAS STANDING IN THE RAIN. TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING."

THERE WILL COME A CHILD, AL SIMMONS.

YOU MUST LOOK TO THE **CHILD**.



THAT CHILD HAS BEEN LINKED TO YOU SINCE THE MOMENT YOU WERE REBORN AS SPAWN.

YOU MEAN CHRISTOPHER?



NOT CHRISTOPHER.



OH NO.
NOT
CYAN.

HAVEN'T
YOU DONE
ENOUGH
TO MY
FAMILY?!

YOUR
FAMILY?

I MEANT--

NO. YOU'RE RIGHT.
CYAN IS VERY SPECIAL. SHE
IS THE CHILD THAT YOU WERE
MEANT TO HAVE WITH WANDA.
YOU'VE ALWAYS FELT THAT
HAVEN'T YOU?

WHENEVER
YOU WERE IN
DANGER, SHE SENSED
IT. AND WHEN SHE
WAS IN TROUBLE IT
WAS YOU SHE
CALLED.

YOUR
DESTINIES ARE
JOINED.



WHAT
DOES SHE
HAVE TO
DO?

FIRST YOU
MUST STRIP AWAY
WHATEVER ILLUSIONS
SHE MAY HAVE ABOUT
YOU. SHE THINKS OF
YOU AS HER STORY-
BOOK HERO WHO
ALWAYS COMES TO
HER RESCUE.

SHE CAN ONLY
HELP IF SHE ACCEPTS
YOU FOR WHAT YOU
REALLY ARE.

YOU MUST
SHOW CYAN YOUR
TRUE FACE.





I HAVE TO BE
AWAY FOR A WHILE.
BUT BEFORE I GO,
THERE'S SOMETHING
I MUST DO.

IT'S A
KIND OF
TEST.



DO YOU
TRUST ME,
CYAN?



YES.



WHAT IS
IT? WHAT'S
WRONG?!

UNNNNGH
H!!



GRANNY
BLAKE WAS
WRONG!

I'M NO
ANGEL...



LOOK
AT ME GIRL!
WHAT DO YOU
SEE?



I AM A
MONSTER!

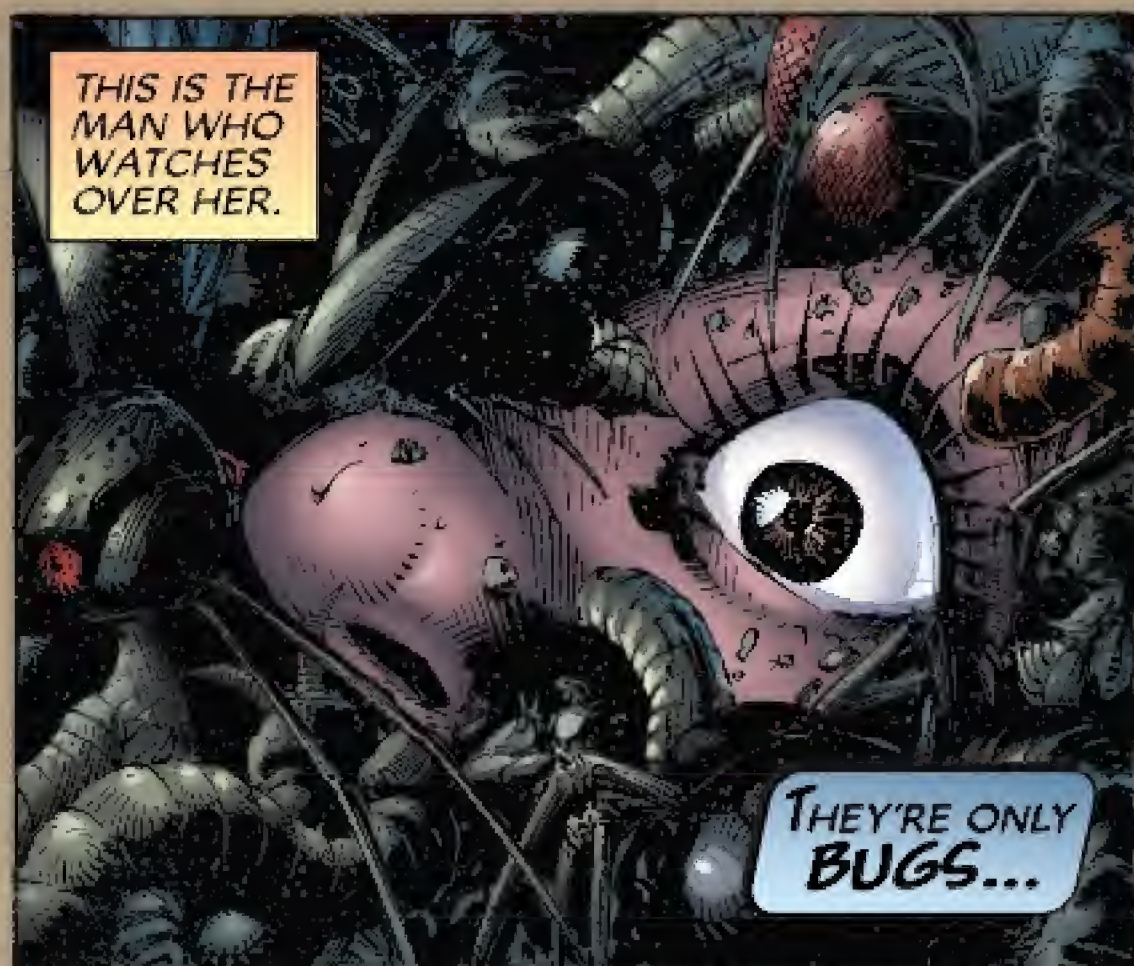
A TEST. HE
SAID THIS
IS A TEST.

WHATEVER
HE LOOKS
LIKE...



...THIS IS
THE MAN
HER MOTHER
LOVED.

THEY'RE
ONLY
BUGS...



THIS IS THE
MAN WHO
WATCHES
OVER HER.

THEY'RE ONLY
BUGS...



ONLY
BUGS!



YOU'RE
NOT A
MONSTER!!



YOU'RE AL
SIMMONS!



YOU'RE
A VERY
BRAVE
GIRL.

N-NOT
REALLY.
WHAT'S TO
BE AFRAID
OF?



THEY'RE
ONLY
BUGS...



I'M SORRY
I HAD TO DO
THAT.

IT'S OKAY.
I KNOW YOU
WOULDN'T HURT
ME. YOU'VE
ALWAYS KEPT
US SAFE.

THAT'S WHAT
YOU'RE GONNA DO, RIGHT?
YOU'RE GONNA KEEP **EVERY-
ONE** SAFE.

ALL THE
GOOD
PEOPLE.



RIGHT. SAVE
THE WORLD.
BIG HERO.
SCARING THE
LIFE OUT OF
A LITTLE
GIRL.

YEAH.
THAT'S
WHAT I'M
GOING
TO DO.



I'M GOING
TO NEED YOUR
HELP.

ARE YOU
OKAY WITH
THAT?

UH-HUH.

GRANNY SAID
I'D HAVE TO DO
SOMETHING SPECIAL
ONE DAY. THAT'S WHY
I HAVE THE DREAMS
AND STUFF.



I JUST
THOUGHT IT
WOULD BE
LATER.

WHEN
I WAS
GROWN
UP.



SO WHAT
DO I HAVE
TO DO?

I DON'T
KNOW
YET.

I THINK YOU'LL
KNOW WHEN THE
TIME COMES...



LOOK
AT HER.
SHE'S SO
TRUSTING.
SHE DIDN'T
EVEN ASK
WHY I DID
THAT TO
HER.

LOOK.

CYAN,
I-



IT'S
STARTED.

PEOPLE...



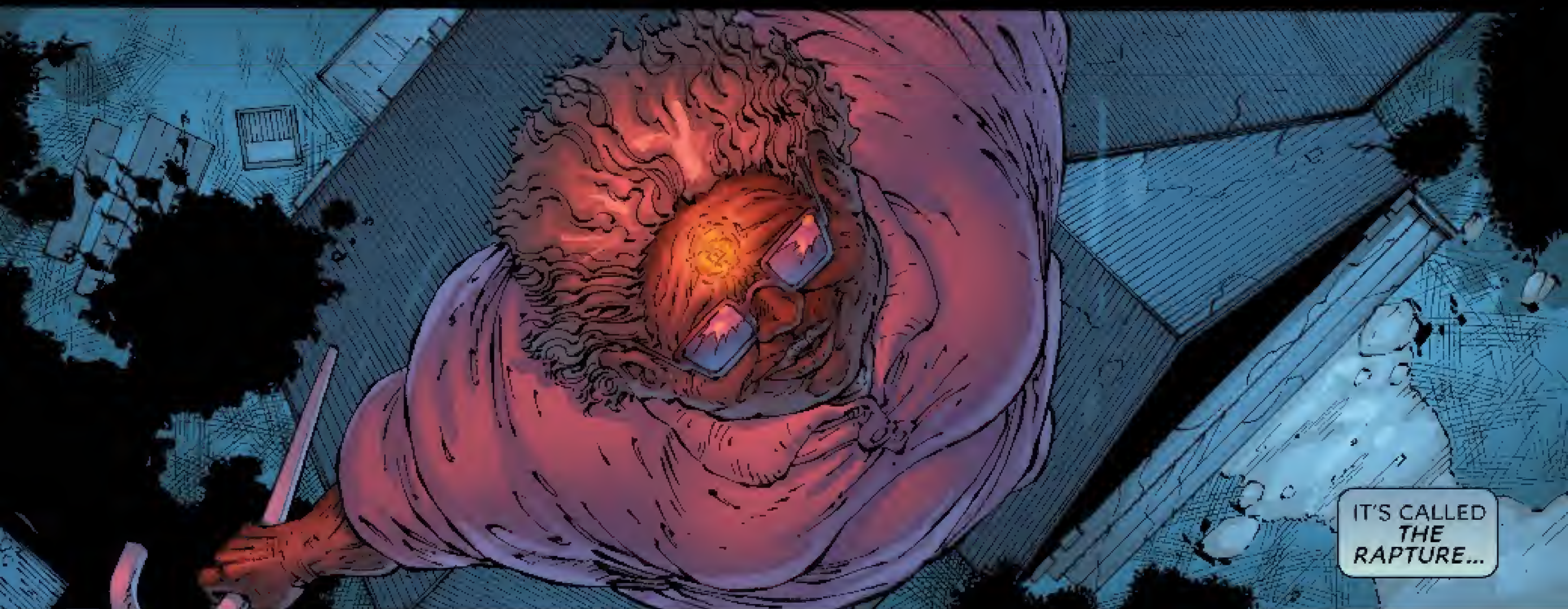
...THOUSANDS
OF THEM.



THIS
MEANS WE
DON'T HAVE
LONG.

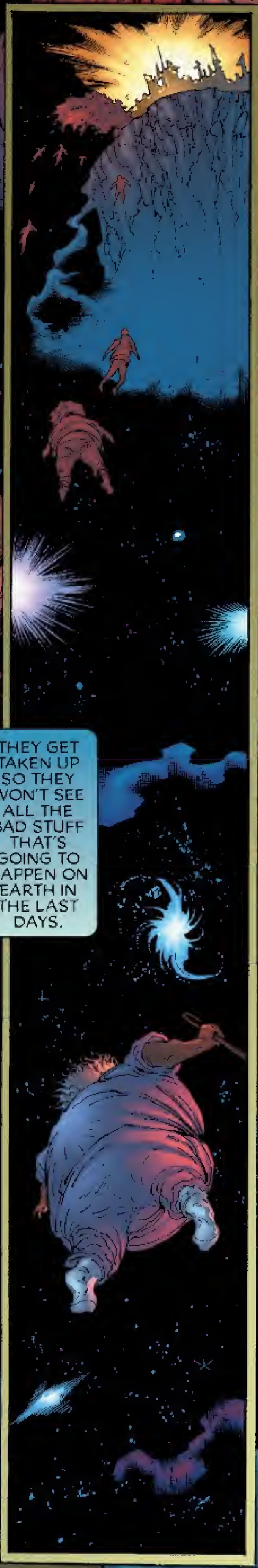


GRANNY
SAID IT WAS
COMING.






ALL THE
CHOSEN
PEOPLE RISE
UP TOGETHER.



THEY GET
TAKEN UP
SO THEY
WON'T SEE
ALL THE
BAD STUFF
THAT'S
GOING TO
HAPPEN ON
EARTH IN
THE LAST
DAYS.



THEY
JUST GO
RIGHT IN
THROUGH
THE
SHINING
GATES.



WHEN THEY ARRIVE
THEY ALL GET NEW
BODIES, EVEN REALLY
OLD PEOPLE LIKE
GRANNY GET TO BE
YOUNG AND PRETTY
AGAIN. GOD'S WAITING
WITH THE ANGELS
AND SAINTS AND ALL
THE PEOPLE THAT
DIED BEFORE.

GRANNY SAYS THAT
GRANDPA JACK WILL BE
THERE TOO. EVERYBODY
GETS TO BE WITH THE PEOPLE
THEY LOVE BEST, SO LONG
AS THEY'VE BEEN GOOD AND
SAID THEIR PRAYERS.

THEN WHEN THE BAD
TIMES ARE OVER AND
GOD HAS TRIUMPHED
OVER THE DEVIL,
ANYONE WHO GOT LEFT
BEHIND LIKE US, IF WE
REPENT, WE'LL GET
RAISED UP TOO AND
WE'LL ALL DWELL UP
THERE WITH GOD FOR
EVER AND EVER.

I BET GRANNY'S
THERE *RIGHT*
NOW.

I BET
SHE'S SO
HAPPY.

H-HELLO?

HI
GRANNY.

WH-WHO'S
THAT?





OH MY
SWEET
LORD



TO BE CONTINUED